

Hostages fly off to freedom after Mr Reagan is sworn in

The 52 American hostages were flown out of Iran yesterday, half an hour after Mr Ronald Reagan had been sworn in as President of the United States. Shortly after-

wards it was announced that ex-President Carter would go to Wiesbaden to greet the freed hostages. They stopped briefly at Athens on their way to Algiers.

Two hospital aircraft left West Germany for Algiers to collect them. In his inaugural address President Reagan gave a warning: "Our forbearance should never be

misunderstood. Our reluctance for conflict should not be misunderstood as a failure of will." He also devoted much of his speech to America's economic difficulties.

Algerian plane leaves amid tight security

From Tony Allaway
Tehran, Jan 20

The hostages crisis is over. The 52 Americans flew from Tehran to freedom tonight on board an Algerian aircraft. The relief and emotion of seeing the aircraft lifting into the air—ending the crisis that has astonished the world for all its 444 days—is indescribable.

I watched the jet carrying the hostages lift off from Tehran in mid-evening from the only vantage point available—the top of a 10-storey block of flats across from the airport. Revolutionary guards and airport police had barred journalists from getting anywhere near the runway or airport buildings as the final minutes of this long drama were played out.

From my vantage point I saw three aircraft depart. First to leave were the Algerian officials, who had acted as intermediaries between Tehran and Washington over the long weeks of hard and harassed negotiations.

Then the first of the two Algerian Boeing 727s tore along the runway carrying the hostages themselves according to the official Parz news agency. The departure of the last aircraft, another 727 reportedly carrying six Algerian doctors, was delayed by the arrival of an Iranian Air Force plane.

No journalists were allowed to see the hostages before their departure and the only westerners who saw them were Mr Erik Lang, the Swiss Ambassador in Iran, and another official from the Swiss Embassy.

The Swiss Embassy has handled American interests in Iran since the hostage crisis began. Where the hostages had been kept before they boarded their 727 at 7.40 pm local time, remained a mystery, although one reliable source said they had been kept at the airport overnight after yesterday's failure to release them.

As the hostages went on board, revolutionary guards and others around the trio of jets shouted "God is great". "Down with America", "Down with Reagan", according to the Iranian news agency. Also surrounding the aircraft were Algerian embassy staff "as if on guard", the agency said.

The hostages were led to the 727 by Ahmad Aslasi, one of the Iranians in charge of hostage negotiations. Algerian officials also boarded the aircraft and talked to the hostages. The jet carrying the hostages took off 45 minutes after the hostages had gone on board.

The first most journalists knew about the departure was when they heard the roar of the first jet taking off. The journalists had been blocked at a junction in the airport, guarded by heavily-armed security forces. Only official Iranian journalists were allowed near the Algerian jets.

After many efforts to end the crisis had failed flat in the face of deep hostility, suspicion and the ceaseless turmoil of post-revolutionary politics, it was hard to believe that I was watching the hostages taking off.

Despite having a taste of Iranian prisons myself, it was hard to imagine just how much emotion the hostages felt. Having heard some descriptions of the hostages' condition—one person who saw them at Christmas likened them to "trained animals"—it could be imagined, however, that the process of their rehabilitation to normal life might be painful.

An Iranian television film tonight showed that the hostages were brought off their bus one by one and escorted by revolutionary guards on either side—they walked the 20 yards to the aircraft. Not until one hostage was on board, was another allowed to leave the bus.

All through this the crowd of guards, police, and officials gathered round chanting their slogans, including a vociferous rendition of "Khomeini is our leader". Tehran radio later confirmed that among those aboard the aircraft were some of the students who first took over the American Embassy "579 nest".

The final day of the crisis had begun on a far more pessimistic note than it ended, with an Iranian warning that the United States had been given an ultimatum to transfer Iran's frozen assets to the Bank of England.

This followed last night's revelation that the Iranians had been handed an appendix to the agreement ending the United States' which it was indicated had caused the Iranian Government to change its mind.

Athens arrival: The hostages landed at Athens International airport last night on their way to Algiers (AP reports from Athens).



Respectable Joseph Subic, aged 23, from Michigan, preparing to board the hostages' plane at Tehran airport.

'It is time to reawaken this industrial giant... to lighten our tax burden' Quick action pledge on US economy

From Patrick Brogan
Washington, Jan 20

Mr Ronald Reagan was sworn in as President of the United States at noon today. Half an hour later, the Algerian aircraft carrying the American hostages took off from Tehran, removing the problem that has bedevilled American foreign policy for the past year and freeing President Reagan's hands to cope with the other immense burdens he has inherited.

In his inaugural address, Mr Reagan said: "Our forbearance should never be misunderstood. Our reluctance for conflict should not be misunderstood as a failure of will. When action is required to preserve our national security, we will act."

"No weapon in the arsenal of the world is so formidable as the will and moral courage of free men and women," he said. "It is a weapon our adversaries in today's world do not have. It is a weapon that we as Americans do have. Let that be understood by those who practice terrorism and prey upon their neighbours."

Mr Reagan promised loyal cooperation with neighbours and allies. "We will strengthen our historic ties with those who share our ideal of freedom," he said, "and assure them of our support and firm commitment. We will match their loyalty with loyalty. We will strive for

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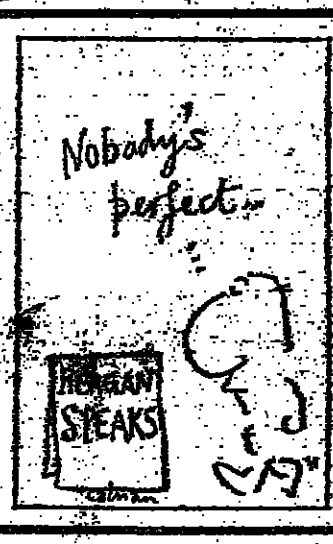
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mutually beneficial relations. We will not use our friendship to impose on their sovereignty, for our own sovereignty is not for sale."

Mr Reagan devoted much of his speech to describing the economic difficulties that now beset the country and promising to start the long business of reducing inflation, balancing the budget and reducing taxation.

"In the days ahead," he said, "I will propose revamping a number of the roadblocks that



have slowed our economy and reduced productivity. Steps will be taken aimed at restoring the balance between the various levels of government.

Recess will be slow, making it in inches and feet, not miles. But we will progress. It is time to reawaken this industrial giant, to get government back within its means, to lighten our punitive tax burden. These will be our first priorities, and on these priorities there will be no compromise."

The ceremony was held outside the West Front of the Capitol, facing down the Mall towards the monuments and the White House. It has usually been held on the other side of the building, or at the White House.

It was a very warm and sunny day. When the new President said: "as we renew ourselves here in our own land, we will be seen as having greater strength throughout the world."

He is often described as the fourth President. President Cleveland is counted twice for serving two separate terms. He is the oldest man ever elected President: his seventieth birthday falls next month, and comes the summer.

The ceremony is a simple one. Mr Reagan had been staying at Blair House, a government guest house across the road from the White House, and first thing this morning he went to church.

Then, following tradition, he went with his wife to the White House, where President Carter met him on the steps. The two families, and the Vice-President and the Vice-President-elect, and their wives, spent half an hour together before setting out for the Capitol. Vice-President Walter Mondale and Vice-President-elect George Bush first in one car, President Carter and President-elect Reagan in the next.

The same order of precedence was observed at the ceremony. First came Mr Mondale, then Mr Bush, then Mr Carter and, last of all, Mr Reagan. The new Vice-President then took the oath, then Mr Reagan.

As he finished reading the words laid down by the Constitution, which every President has read since George Washington in 1789, the band struck up, and a 21-gun salute was fired, the sound of the guns echoing round the monuments, museums and ministries of the Capitol.

Mr Carter to head welcome reception in West Germany

From David Cross
Washington, Jan 20

The United States and Iran today cleared what appeared to be the final hurdle in their negotiations for the return of the 52 American hostages, but not in time to give Mr Jimmy Carter the satisfaction of savouring their release during the final hours of his presidency.

The nation's highest office passed from Mr Carter to Mr Ronald Reagan at exactly noon today when the new President was sworn in on the west steps of the Capitol.

Mr Carter, who has spent the final days of his four years as President engaged in almost ceaseless negotiations on the hostage crisis, spent another final sleepless night at the White House last night as his financial and foreign policy advisers in Washington, London, and Algiers worked feverishly to resolve last-minute snags.

The Iranians had objected late yesterday to the amount of interest that Washington was intending to pay on the frozen assets which have been held in the United States since the seizure of the hostages in November, 1979.

The problem was finally resolved at 3.15 pm today and the United States Treasury set in motion the complex movements of frozen assets from banks in the United States to a special holding account for the Iranians at the Bank of England. This transaction, together with the necessary signing documents was concluded by dawn.

But as the morning advanced and Mr Carter prepared to transfer his powers to Mr Reagan, there was an agonizing delay. The gavel-to-gavel television coverage of the inauguration ceremonies on all three commercial networks was interrupted continually and irritably by speculation, rumour, and false reports.

In his inaugural speech, however, Mr Reagan studiously avoided even an oblique mention of the hostages.

The first official American confirmation that the hostages were on their way home came at 12.40 pm when Mr Richard Allen, the new National Security Adviser, said that the aircraft had just taken off from Tehran.

The first live eyewitness report on American television of the departure of the aircraft from Tehran came from Mr Tony Allaway, The Times correspondent in Iran.

Notwithstanding this obvious and imminent release of the hostages, Mr Carter was seen to greet the 52 Americans as President of the United States.

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Commando disbanded but Trident spared in £100m defence cuts

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent

Mr John Nott, appointed during the Christmas recess to succeed Mr Francis Pym as Secretary of State for Defence, yesterday announced details of the £200m reduction in planned defence expenditure required by the Chancellor of the Exchequer as the department's share of essential cuts in government spending.

In doing so he played many of the worst fears of the Conservative benches that he was appointed as a creature of the Treasury to do a hatchet job on future defence budgets.

With Mrs Thatcher's close friend behind him, he told the Commons firmly that he would be in charge of the Defence Department and not the Treasury, although he was sure that the two departments would work closely together.

In reply to anxious questioning from MPs, Mr Nott gave an assurance that from now on, defence expenditure would be kept within the limits of the main budget, which was more than £1,000m higher than the budget this year. Announcing the cuts, he told MPs that it was necessary to keep to cash limits.

Although he accepted that the Defence Department was likely to overspend this year, he told MPs that it was necessary to keep to cash limits. However, he agreed with Mr Pym that it was difficult for the defence department, with an enormous procurement programme, always to get its expenditure absolutely within cash limits each year.

Next year had not yet been decided, the defence budget was expected to be £12,500m, which was more than £1,000m higher than the budget this year. Announcing the cuts, he told MPs that it was necessary to keep to cash limits.

While emphasising the Government's commitment to increase defence expenditure, Mr Nott signalled a significant change of emphasis over the virtues of the cash limits in relation to his department. Whereas Mr Pym stated publicly that the Government's cash limits should not apply to defence spending, Mr Nott said the House that the cash limits system was "absolutely fundamental".

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Lorho loses vote in Fraser power tussle

By Philip Robinson
Financial Staff

House of Fraser directors yesterday beat off the second attack in seven months from the largest shareholder, Lord Lorho, who is unlikely to be the last battle.

As a special shareholders' meeting in Glasgow broke up, Sir Hugh Fraser, the store group's chairman, went back to his office in London, where he is likely to be the last battle.

It was a very warm and sunny day. When the new President said: "as we renew ourselves here in our own land, we will be seen as having greater strength throughout the world."

He is often described as the fourth President. President Cleveland is counted twice for serving two separate terms. He is the oldest man ever elected President: his seventieth birthday falls next month, and comes the summer.

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Then, following tradition, he went with his wife to the White House, where President Carter met him on the steps. The two families, and the Vice-President and the Vice-President-elect, and their wives, spent half an hour together before setting out for the Capitol. Vice-President Walter Mondale and Vice-President-elect George Bush first in one car, President Carter and President-elect Reagan in the next.

The same order of precedence was observed at the ceremony. First came Mr Mondale, then Mr Bush, then Mr Carter and, last of all, Mr Reagan. The new Vice-President then took the oath, then Mr Reagan.

As he finished reading the words laid down by the Constitution, which every President has read since George Washington in 1789, the band struck up, and a 21-gun salute was fired, the sound of the guns echoing round the monuments, museums and ministries of the Capitol.

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Mr Rowland and Lord Duncan-Sandys, voted off his board. It is understood that the board may well begin to consider taking legal advice as to whether or not to introduce a "poison pill" to protect the company from a "hostile takeover".

Mr Ernest Stamp, former joint managing director of Grand Metropolitan and considered the most likely successor to Sir Hugh, said: "I'll be back in June 30 minutes at the meeting of the House of Fraser shareholders to signal their support for the board's decision to sell and lease back the 12.5% share stake in Lord Lorho's share of £2m."

The deal, part of a £10m property package with Legal General Assurance, was announced last November, but Lord Lorho, claiming the support of a number of small shareholders, challenged the move and a special meeting by special proxy was called.

Sir Hugh announced early in the meeting that he had proxies totalling 71,455,646, against Lord Lorho's 51,672,533, including 45 million of his own shares.

Three attempts were made at voting on a share of hands, the results of one seeming to indicate that Lord Lorho had won, before a final vote decided Lord Lorho had lost 62 to 25.

Sir Hugh has already said he wants Lord Lorho's representatives, Financial Editor, page 19

Labour Party runs up a £500,000 deficit

The Labour Party has run up a deficit of £500,000 because some trade unions have failed to keep their promise to pay their affiliation fees on time. Party leaders are being advised to halt recruitment of non-clerical staff at party headquarters. A loan of £250,000 from the unions before Christmas has been spent on paying wages to the staff.

Arsonist killed 26
A Hull man aged 20, who pleaded guilty at Leeds Crown Court to the manslaughter of 26 people involving 10 fires, was ordered to be detained without limit of time in a special hospital in Liverpool. George Peter, the man who called himself Bruce Lee, pleaded not guilty to 11 charges of arson.

Black papers closed
The two main black newspapers have been ordered to close down by the South African Government. The registration of the papers had lapsed as a result of a strike by their black editorial staff. This is the second time in three years that the Government has silenced the voice of black opinion. The papers' predecessors were banned in 1977.



Masterpiece for sale: Detail from the Holy Family with St John, St Elizabeth and the six putti a Poussin masterpiece from the Chavon collection, which the Duke of Devonshire plans to sell to meet rising costs of the estate. The painting is valued at between £1m and £2m.

A Michelangelo found
A black chalk drawing by Michelangelo, which was unknown to scholars, has been found in Switzerland. It has been identified as Christ and the Woman of Samaria, dating from about 1593. It was in a collection of drawings that had escaped scholarly attention.

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Letters: On the political centre, from Sir Leslie Murphy, and Mr Roger Pinchem; on teaching music, from Mr Graham Smith; on the art of lecturing, from Mr Russell on home conferences.

Feature page, 11
L. Rowie on Thomas Carlyle; Michael Smith on Play for Today (BBC); Irving Berlin on the New National Security Adviser; Dame Josephine Barnes on the art of lecturing; Knox Russell on home conferences.

Obituary, page 16
Viscountess Astor, Eric Bovi
Business News, pages 17-22
Stock Markets: Lack of follow through as prices revert to unchanged after a sharp start while currency buying in this conditions lifted equities. The FT 100 closed 5.8 higher at 455.5.

Sniper killed by sniper in Londonderry attack

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent

A Provisional IRA soldier aged 21 was murdered last night by a Provisional IRA as he was closing a security gate in the City Walls between the oldest part of Londonderry and the Bogside.

A sniper fired 10 shots. Another soldier was taken to hospital with serious injuries. In Dungannon, Co Tyrone, three men are expected to appear in court today charged with the attempted murder of Mrs Bernadette McAlees and her husband Michael.

Mrs McAlees, the former MP Bernadette Devlin, and her husband are still seriously ill in hospital after being shot several times at their home near Coalisland, Co Tyrone, on Friday.

The Provisional IRA admitted the murder of a man whose hooded body was found yesterday in a country road a few yards inside the Northern Ireland border in south Armagh. (Christopher Thomas writes).

A Dublin statement issued in the morning, which every President has read since George Washington in 1789, the band struck up, and a 21-gun salute was fired, the sound of the guns echoing round the monuments, museums and ministries of the Capitol.

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HOME NEWS

Labour Party £500,000 in deficit as some unions fail to pay their affiliation fees on time

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

The Labour Party is undergoing a new financial crisis and its leaders are being advised to impose a freeze on recruitment of staff at the party's headquarters in London. That unprecedented measure is pending as trade union in-fighting over next Saturday's special party conference reaches its peak.

A deficit of £500,000 has been run up in the past few months as most of the trade unions who pledged to pay their massive affiliation fees for 1981 on time have failed to live up to their promises.

The party's staff negotiations committee, dominated by Mr Norman Atkinson, MP, the treasurer, will next week recommend to the national executive that all recruitment should be halted and posts should not be filled when they become vacant. Only clerical staffing would be exempt.

A loan of £250,000 made available by the unions shortly before Christmas at a preferential interest rate has been spent on paying staff wages, and the party is now being obliged to go back to the Co-operative Bank to borrow at an interest rate of 19 per cent.

Trade union leaders whose missing affiliation fees have contributed to the crisis will meet on Friday night to determine the outcome of a conference to meet on an electoral college to choose the party leader.

The proposal most favoured appears to be the moderates' package giving the Parliamentary Labour Party half the electoral college votes, with the rest equally divided between affiliated trade unions and constituency parties.

But left-wing union leaders are still determined to push for a formula giving a third of the votes to each of those powerful groups. The Transport and General Workers' Union is to cast its 1,250,000 block vote for that line-up, although its leaders may shift marginally in the horse-trading expected at the Wembley conference.

A counter-meeting of right-wing unions, involving the Association of Professional Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff, the electricians and the engineering workers, aimed at producing a trade union formula to scupper the whole electoral college exercise, is being arranged. It will be held in a Bloomsbury hotel in the next few days.

Their efforts were given a stimulus yesterday by the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, whose executive council decided to vote only for its own policy of giving an outright majority in any electoral college to Labour MPs. The union's 850,000 block vote is to be withheld from voting on any other formula, even though that would deliver the conference to the left.

The union's delegates to the conference, who must muster a marginal majority on some political issues, are to meet on Friday night to decide their final position. By then a right-wing option putting the whole business off to the full party conference in Brighton in October may be available.

But the one issue that will not go away is the party's virtual bankruptcy. There are difficulties over £80,000 of unpaid rates due to Southwark council, and an appeal against that assessment is due to be lodged soon.

The unions whose affiliation fees should have been paid already are arguing that the economic recession has affected their membership levels and finances. Their political funds are at a low level, and a Conservative Party campaign in the north of England has been cited as the cause of a fall in members paying the political levy.

To recoup the party's fortunes, Labour leaders are planning to run a national lottery on May Day. A first prize of £100,000 has been suggested, but that is regarded by seasoned party workers as hopelessly optimistic.

Labour's long-term finances are in even greater jeopardy because the unions have refused to endorse a proposal that they should lift affiliation fees from the new level of 40p to 50p a head from January, 1982.

BBC strike by actors threatened

By Kenneth Gosling

Equity, the actors' union, said yesterday that it would call on its BBC members to strike unless the corporation increased a pay offer.

The union has called a mass meeting of members for February 1 at the Shaftesbury Theatre, in London. Mr Peter Plowicz, general secretary, said: "We believe we are now in the most serious position we have yet been in, not only in these negotiations but throughout our dealings with the BBC in relation to television."

The BBC said last night that the offer of 7.5 per cent, was a fair one.

When negotiations began last November Equity asked for 30 per cent and it recently rejected 8 per cent; yesterday the council met to consider, and then reject the latest offer, which would raise the minimum from £125 a week to £141. Mr Plowicz said a dispute was now possible over as little as £180,000.

"That would not narrow the gap with independent television but we would be willing to maintain the present disparity for a year in view of the financial position of the corporation and the country," he said.

Mr Plowicz said that many familiar faces on television were working for £250 to £300 a week for not much more than 25 or 30 weeks a year.

Dispute cuts sailings at eight British ports

By Donald Macintyre
Labour Reporter

The merchant navy dispute intensified sharply yesterday, with ferry and freight services halted or curtailed at eight British ports as the National Union of Seamen extended its strategy of unannounced strikes.

The General Council of British Shipping said that the dispute was becoming increasingly grave; the number of ships delayed because of the dispute had risen from 60 on Monday to 104, of which 28 were in foreign ports. That is the highest increase since the dispute began before Christmas.

The council indicated that member companies were operating its guidelines by beginning to hold back some of the pay of seamen who were delaying ships, but it did not give details.

The company is understood to be considering stopping the pay of ferry employees during disruptive action unless they accede to the request. Negotiations at port level on the request will resume this morning.

The Sealink move came after the company was forced to provide overnight accommodation for its crews.

partly on board ship and partly in local hotels, late on Monday night when the Portsmouth to the Channel Islands service was cancelled.

The unions' central disputes committee is expected to consider further intensification of the disputes at a meeting on Friday. Before that, services from Southampton are expected to be disrupted, with probable additional stoppages in Cairnryan, Dover and Felixstowe.

Other services were disrupted by strikes lasting between six and 36 hours, affecting vessels operating out of Southampton, Folkestone, Portsmouth, Fishguard, Holyhead, Liverpool and Heysham. Sealink services using Belgian and French crews were operating normally.

Townsend Thoresen said that there were strikes on board the ferry Viking Valiant and the Viking Trader, both in port at Le Havre.

The National Union of Seamen said that the line's Viking Venture, operating from Southampton to Cherbourg, and the Manx Viking, operating between Heysham and Douglas, Isle of Man, had also been affected.

The Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service was maintaining in contact with both sides yesterday, but there was no prospect of a meeting between the management and union.

Some council houses to be for job seekers

By John Withersow

The Prime Minister's appeal for people to search for work away from their homes has been met, in part, with the announcement that from April 1 some council houses will be reserved for those moving to jobs in new areas.

The National Mobility Scheme aims to assist people moving away from centres of unemployment. The project was drawn up by Mr John Stanbury, Minister for Housing and Construction, with the assistance of committees representing local authorities.

The Department of the Environment said that about twenty counties have agreed arrangements for moves between districts in the same county.

Polish sociologist in talks with MPs and TUC

By Our Political Staff

Dr Janik Strzalecki, a sociologist in the Department of Futurology, Institute of Sciences, Warsaw, who is a member of the advisory board of Solidarity, the Polish trade union organization, had talks yesterday with members of the TUC at Congress House, and earlier with Conservative MPs and trade unionists at Central Office.

On Monday he had a discussion with Labour Party officials and visited the House of Lords. He also paid calls on the Tavistock Institute and Chatham House.

Dr Strzalecki is in London on a visit arranged by the Central Office of Information. His object has been to give trade union and political organizations first-hand information about the activities of Solidarity.



"The Holy Family with St John, St Elizabeth and six putti" which is to be sold to meet Chatsworth running costs.

Chatsworth Poussin to be sold

By Frances Gibb

The Duke of Devonshire has been forced to sell one of the masterpieces from his famous collection at Chatsworth, a painting by the seventeenth-century French artist, Nicolas Poussin, estimated to be worth between £1m and £2m.

The painting, "The Holy Family with St John, St Elizabeth and six putti", which has been in the Devonshire collection since 1761, is being sold to meet running costs on the

estate. It is the first important work to be sold by the present duke.

The duke confirmed last night that the trustees of the Chatsworth settlement had considered a sale to "preserve Chatsworth for posterity". He said he could not comment further until the official announcement.

Important works by Poussin, the founding father of classical landscape (1594-1665), rarely appear on the market. This one, dating from about 1650, is considered a first-class example of the artist's mature work.

The duke has offered the painting first to museums and galleries in the hope that a private treaty sale may be arranged and the work can be acquired for the nation.

But galleries will be hard put to raise the kind of sum the painting is considered worth, and it is likely that it may have to be sold at auction.

The work is now at Christie's, who are expected to make an announcement on Friday.

The painting was shown recently at the Royal Academy as part of the "Treasures from Chatsworth" exhibition, which previously toured six American museums, so potential American buyers have had a chance to view it.

Professor Anthony Blunt, a leading authority on the artist and author of the Academy catalogue, said yesterday that he was very sorry it was to be sold.

"It is an extremely important work. It is not the most popular kind of Poussin, because it does not have the same romantic appeal as, for instance, 'The Shepherds in Arcadia', but it is one of the very remarkable masterpieces of his later classical period."

One of the highlights of the Chatsworth collection, it was a work which British galleries would wish to acquire. "But I doubt whether English museums would be able to afford it. There would certainly be a lot of American interest."

The only galleries that could even attempt to buy it are the National Gallery, which already has a good collection of Poussins, and the Manchester City Art Gallery. The latter is known to be interested.

Yorkshire MP faces first local party reselection

From Ronald Kershaw
Leeds

The first reselection conference by a constituency Labour Party will be at Rother Valley, South Yorkshire, where Mr Peter Hardy is the member of Parliament. If the Yorkshire regional Labour Party arrangements go according to plan, submission for reselection will take place in the late spring.

Mr Harold Sims, regional party secretary, said: "There are 52 constituencies in the region, and 33 have Labour MPs. Mr Sims said that all party organizations and affiliated organizations who were entitled to nominate candidates were being informed. The sitting MP would automatically be nominated and short-

lists would be prepared in the next few months.

The Rother Valley constituency is of particular interest because it was traditionally a mining seat until Mr Hardy, a schoolmaster, was elected in 1970.

Mr Sims hopes the timetable for the reselection will be completed by the party's national executive committee before August. It may be that many MPs will be reselected without the complication of new nominations, but the process of advertising, reselection and asking for nominations will have to be gone through. It is likely that several reselection conferences will be organized to take place simultaneously.

Labour EEC plan infantile, says Mrs Williams

By Our Political Editor

In another attack on the decision by the 1980 Labour conference to seek withdrawal from the EEC, Mrs Shirley Williams said last night that it was infantile to believe that Britain could negotiate a trading agreement that would give equal access to the Community after withdrawal.

"She said that on this issue the Labour Party 'is reluctant to live in the real world', just as the Conservatives behaved as if 'economics were divorced from politics and society'.

Britain could not withdraw from the EEC "without massive damage to jobs and to what remains of our industry". But the deeper tragedy, she said, was that the Labour Fabians, who were the Labour Party's original base for new international initiatives.

The European Community had sympathy for the Brandt Commission's proposals to harness the unemployed resources of the northern hemisphere with the needs of the south, and with Herr Brandt's initiative to try to negotiate a mutual withdrawal of European nuclear weapons.

"Does anyone believe that Britain, economically weak and politically isolated from the European Community and from the many Commonwealth countries who want us to stay in, would be followed by the world's powers if she attempted such policies on her own? Those are the politics of delusion", she said.

£50m Ford price-cut drive

By Peter Waymark

Escort today announces a new round of price cuts, and improved specifications, worth together up to nearly £300 a car, in an attempt to push its market share in Britain to a record 35 per cent this year.

The latest price reductions and added value affect all Ford models except the new Escort range and come just over a month after the launching of low price Popular versions of the Fiesta hatchback.

Ford estimates that the total cost of the programme is £50m but hopes to recoup part of the money through extra sales. Its target for the year is 495,000 cars, an increase over 1980 of just over 30,000.

Back to work: Production of Escort cars was nearly back to normal yesterday as more than 4,000 hourly paid workers returned to the body and assembly sections at Ford's Halewood plant after being laid off for two days.

Tank escapes cuts

Continued from page 1

Naval Communications Squadron at Lee-on-the-Solent while the extra Lightning squadron would not be formed as planned. A squadron would be found out of training units which could rapidly be made operational.

Mr Nott emphasized the importance placed by the Government on maintaining the "frontline capability" of Britain's defence forces.

Tornado unaffected: The big procurement programme, including those for Trident, the Challenger tank and the Tornado aircraft, emerged unscathed, to nobody's great surprise (our Defence Correspondent writes).

Among the real surprises is the abandonment of last year's plan to form an extra squadron of Lightning fighters.

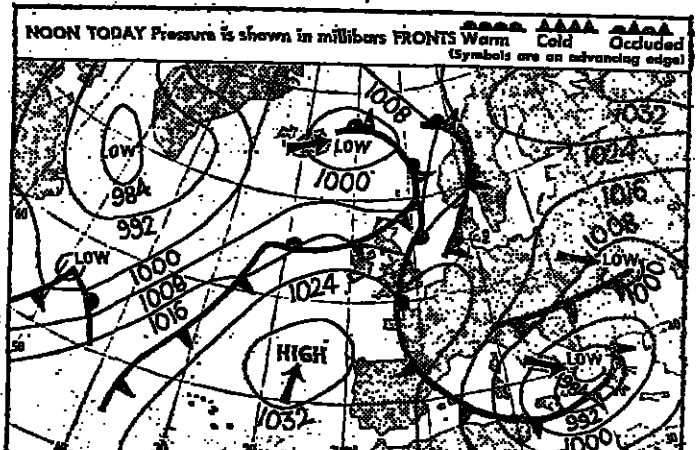
The decision to reduce the number of Shackleton aircraft and to drop one of the seven Vulcan squadrons earlier than planned will also create gaps in the RAF's inventory, until the Nimrod and Tornado aircraft are introduced.

The RAF and the Royal Navy have borne the brunt of the spending cuts and particularly the Navy, which is unhappy about the effects on its capability.

Mr Nott would not be drawn upon the replacement plans for the Harrier and Jaguar aircraft. A decision on both is long overdue.

Parliamentary report, page 9

Weather forecast and recordings



NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars. Fronts: Warm, Cold, Occluded. Symbols: Rain, Cloud, Sun, Wind, etc.

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Forecast for 4-6 pm: Rain, with some sun. Wind: 10-15 mph, variable. Temperature: 10-15°C.

Forecast for 7-9 pm: Rain, with some sun. Wind: 10-15 mph, variable. Temperature: 10-15°C.

Forecast for 10-12 pm: Rain, with some sun. Wind: 10-15 mph, variable. Temperature: 10-15°C.

Call to refer 'Times' bid to mergers commission

By Fred Emery
Political Editor

Appealing to the Prime Minister to protect what he called "some of the great newspapers of this country" Mr Michael Foot, the Leader of the Opposition, yesterday sought in vain Mrs Margaret Thatcher's undertaking to refer any bid for Times Newspapers by Mr Rupert Murdoch to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

He also pressed Mrs Thatcher during Commons question time to undertake to have the commission produce a report with extreme urgency in view of the International Thomson Organisation's decision to cease publishing the papers in March.

Mrs Thatcher would not commit herself. She said that it did not think it advisable to state what the Government would do before any application to transfer ownership had been received, and none had been received. Mr John Biffie, Secretary of State for Trade, upon receiving such an application, would have to consider the newspaper merger provisions of the Fair Trading Act 1973.

When pressed, Mrs Thatcher would only say: "We shall apply the law as it is, a apply it precisely."

Mr Foot spoke of the "stirring rumours" that *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* were being acquired by Mr Murdoch. Wh Lord Thomson of Fleet acquired *The Times* alone that had been referred to the commission's pledges of independence to be given.

reference to the commission under the 1973 Act is not automatic, although Mr Foot's supporters say they believe it. The criteria explained by the Department of Trade indicate that an exception would have to be made if any bid by Mr Murdoch was not to refer to the commission. The man is in the discretion of Mr Biffie, who is not due back from India until next Friday.

Mr Murdoch, who owns *The Sun* and the *News of the World*, would require Mr Biffie's consent. And, since the combined average circulation of the merged newspapers would exceed 500,000, under the Act consent would normally be given only after reference to the commission.

The exceptions arise on question of urgency and economic viability. If Mr Biffie was satisfied that the newspapers in the transfer were not economic as going concerns at the time of the transfer, he could give his consent without reference to the commission.

Talks progress: Mr Gordon Brunton, chief executive of Thomson British Holdings, said last night that talks were going on with various people and hoped the negotiations would be completed by the end of the month (the Press Association reports).

Mr Harold Evans, the editor of *The Sunday Times*, said Monday that his "inspired" rather inside-guess was that a decision had already been taken to sell the papers to Mr Murdoch.

However, Mr Michael Clipp, a spokesman for Thomson British Holdings, said: "Ever body, including Mr Evans, is still negotiating with more than one person and no decision has been made."

There will be just guess: conference when we have completed our talks. There is chance that it will be the week."

Parliamentary report, page 9

Frost proof

The original warmer-upper.
On its own or as a
Stone's Whisky Mac.

Polish sociologist in talks with MPs and TUC

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Overseas selling prices

Amsterdam 30.00, Berlin 30.00, Brussels 30.00, Frankfurt 30.00, Geneva 30.00, London 30.00, Madrid 30.00, Milan 30.00, Paris 30.00, Rome 30.00, Stockholm 30.00, Zurich 30.00.

Yesterday

London: Temp: max, 6 am to 10 pm, 7°C (45°F); min, 6 pm to 6 am, 5°C (41°F). Humidity, 6 pm, 76 per cent. Rain, 24hr to 6 pm, 2.5 mm. Sea level, 6 pm, 1.025 millibars, rising. 1,000 millibars = 29.53 in.

Weather reports yesterday

Albrighton 13.0, Birmingham 12.0, Bristol 11.0, Cardiff 10.0, Exeter 11.0, Glasgow 10.0, Liverpool 11.0, Manchester 12.0, Newcastle 11.0, Nottingham 12.0, Oxford 11.0, Plymouth 10.0, Reading 11.0, Southampton 11.0, Swansea 10.0, Telford 11.0, Wolverhampton 11.0.

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HOME NEWS

Special hospital for young man who admitted killing 26 people and 10 charges of arson

Bruce George Peter Lee, aged 20, of Hull, pleaded guilty at Leeds Crown Court yesterday to the manslaughter of 26 people and 10 charges of arson. He was ordered to be detained in a special hospital without limit of time.

The indictment took 25 minutes to read out before Mr Justice Tudor Evans. Mr Lee had pleaded not guilty to charges of arson and murder from June, 1973, to December, 1979. He admitted the 10 charges of arson, which involved 10 fires and people aged between six months and 95 years old.

Mr Harry Ognall, QC, said that the guilty pleas to manslaughter were tendered on the basis of diminished responsibility. The pleas were accepted by the prosecution.

After Mr Lee had pleaded, Mr Gerald Cole, QC, for the prosecution, told the judge that two medical reports about Mr Lee's mental condition would be put before the court.

With regard to the 11 charges of arson to which he had pleaded not guilty, it was not in the public interest to incur the expense of a trial in those matters, and the prosecution accepted the pleas.

Mr Cole said Mr Lee was born with a partly paralysed and deformed right arm and was an epileptic. Nor was he a much-loved child. His mother was a prostitute and never cared for him, which caused much of his unhappiness.

Counsel said the significance of that was that in 1979 he changed his name by deed poll to Bruce Lee, partly in admiration of the Kung-fu film actor.

Mr Lee attended school for the physically handicapped until he was 16 and spent much of his youth in care. It was when he was in care that, he says, he was introduced to homosexual practices, which led to his downfall and discovery.

Mr Lee clearly had an animal cunning of a remarkably sharp nature. That permitted him to develop in no small scale as a fire raiser, so that for many years not only was he not caught but the fires he caused were ascribed to accidental causes.

The sad fact is that this is his only real accomplishment in life and something he had expressed himself as being proud of, Mr Cole continued.

The first known fire causing death was on June 27, 1973, but his fire raising activities went further back. In a statement Mr Lee had admitted setting fire to a shopping arcade causing £17,000 of damage when he was only nine years old.

Mr Cole said that after the first fire which caused death, a sort of pattern for the fires emerged, as far as his method was concerned. The choice of victims was usually random, mindless and totally random, and that was one reason why detection was so difficult.

"He took to buying paraffin and wandering round feeling miserable and depressed. He carried the paraffin with him and when his fingers began to tingle he knew that he wanted to start a fire."

On only about four occasions did motive come into it, because on those occasions the people involved were those against whom he had a grudge, although these grudges were of a trivial nature.

Mr Cole said that perhaps the most appalling fire of all was on January 5, 1977. Mr Lee went to Wensley Lodge, an old men's home, which was really three houses in one. Eleven died in a blaze and six rescuers were injured.

In another statement to the police, Mr Lee had said: "I did the old blokes' home. I got a bike and off I went with my paraffin." He had added: "It was a nasty fire, a really rotten fire I did, and I knew it was going to kill people in there."

Each denied the allegation, until it was the turn of Mr Lee. He replied: "I did not mean it."

Mr Sagar said later: "It was our last hope, and it paid off. I was satisfied he was the one who had done it without a shadow of a doubt."

Mr Lee had become an adept and cold-hearted fire raiser. Detectives described the fires he was responsible for as "good arsons", meaning the criminal nature behind them was difficult to detect.

More than 18,000 people from the district were interviewed during the inquiry into the fire at the Hasties' home. There were no fingerprints, nothing except a piece of paper near the front door. The paper had been soaked in paraffin. That set in motion the arson inquiry.

Detectives believed paraffin had been poured through the letterbox by the fire-raiser. The police had received 123 allegations from people blaming the Hastie boys for everything and anything. But Mr Sagar could not believe that any neighbour responsible for such deaths could carry on a normal life afterwards.

When Mr Lee began to talk, the pieces fell together like a jigsaw puzzle.

There is relief in the community where Mr Lee lived during the last few months with his mother and stepfather. There is sympathy for Mrs Doreen Lee, who has moved to an address near by.

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Peter Lee: "Fire is my master."

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Imposed law is not sacrosanct, Plaid says

From Tim Jones Cardiff

Plaid Cymru's national council will be asked on Saturday to endorse a policy document which says that party members should be allowed to break the law if the party's aims cannot be achieved through normal constitutional channels.

That is one of the main recommendations of a commission of inquiry appointed to examine the party's declining fortunes. Plaid Cymru's credibility suffered badly as a result of its ill-fated devolution campaign, and its recent results in parliamentary district and borough council elections have been disappointing.

The report says: "While the party should normally operate in a constitutional way within the law, it should not regard laws imposed on us as necessarily sacrosanct, though the party should adhere to its declared total rejection of any activity likely to cause violence to persons."

Plaid Cymru should concentrate during the 1980s on fusing together the forces of nationalism, radicalism and socialism. It was the bleeding of these elements into a potential dynamic force that was feared by the Tories and helped us lead to their capitulation on the fourth channel issue."

If the commission's report is endorsed the party, hitherto an amalgamation of differing political philosophies, held together by a desire for self-determination, will be cast irrevocably into a socialist mould. The commission favours the establishment of workers' cooperatives, community groups and social clubs of all kinds.

That approach is clearly designed to appeal to industrial South Wales, where the party must make gains if it is ever to become a real political force in the principality.

Ticket discounts and heavy advertising revolutionize Festival Hall ratings Hard sell makes Philharmonia top of the pops

By Martin Huckerby Music Reporter

The orchestral popularity ratings at the Festival Hall in London seem almost certain to change substantially this year because of the Philharmonia Orchestra's success with its new subscription scheme. Last year the Philharmonia had the poorest audiences of the four independent London orchestras; this year it looks like having easily the best.

When Riccardo Muti brings Stravinsky's Rite of Spring to its shattering close on Sunday night the orchestra will have virtually sold out every concert so far this season; 12 consecutively.

In the last financial year audiences at the hall for the four orchestras averaged 73 per cent, and the Philharmonia managed only 71 per cent. But

the introduction of season tickets with discounts of up to 25 per cent has meant that half of each house for the orchestra has been sold in advance.

Heavy advertising, with the aid of sponsorship from Du Maurier, and some concerts with very popular artists such as James Galway and Yehudi Menuhin, have done the rest.

Popularity may not necessarily reflect orchestral quality, since hackneyed programmes of the most popular music can guarantee high attendances, but topping the poll can make a big difference to an orchestra's financial health.

The other orchestras might be expected to envy the Philharmonia's success but there is no sign of their starting subscription schemes.

The London Philharmonic said that from September to

November last year the Philharmonia was averaging just over 90 per cent paid attendances (complimentary and similar tickets make up the rest) while the other three were all about 65 per cent.

It thought the Philharmonia had probably poached audiences from the other orchestras but since then attendances had improved.

The London Symphony said it was unlikely to start a subscription scheme at the Festival Hall, although it certainly will use such schemes when it begins regular seasons at the Barbican Arts Centre next year.

Nor did the Royal Philharmonic expect great interest in the idea; it tried a subscription scheme some years ago and obtained 16 members.

Launching a scheme is undeniably expensive and since

concert attendances overall seem to have picked up in the last couple of months (the Festival Hall said they were probably running at about 1 per cent higher than last year), the pressure on orchestras to take drastic action has slackened.

Mr Christopher Bishop, managing director of the Philharmonia, was delighted that no one else wanted to compete to sell season tickets. He said his ambition was to sell the whole house every night on subscription, and then to start repeating each concert.

In London there are a series of rehearsals and then usually just one concert; elsewhere in Britain, and in most other countries, where there are fewer orchestras and less competition, each concert is repeated, sometimes several times. The financial benefits are great.

Admissibility of government undertakings may be crucial issue at airfield inquiry

From John Young Planning Reporter Guildford

The admissibility as evidence of past government actions and undertakings appeared likely to become a crucial issue at a public inquiry which opened in Guildford, Surrey, yesterday.

The inquiry is into an application to reopen the disused Wisley airfield for general aviation. Objectors say that permission would reach promises given nearly 40 years ago when the land was requisitioned for wartime use and repeated on several occasions since.

But Mr Shane Reese, the inquiry inspector, refused to say whether he would admit as evidence either letters written by government officials or the Hansard reports of debates in Parliament.

Lawyers for Guildford Borough Council, which has consistently opposed the application, will argue that government undertakings cannot be ignored, as they have all along guided both the county and district councils' planning policies. The specific commitment to

restore the land for agriculture strengthened their determination not to allow the airfield to reopen.

Mr Michael Fitzgerald, QC, for the applicants, Jonstons, sought yesterday to reassure those who feared that Wisley might develop into London's fourth airport.

There was no intention of introducing scheduled services, he said. "There will be no provision made for airlines or for those aircraft normally associated with airlines."

The company would seek a general aviation licence to serve the needs of business and corporate customers. It would be a so-called ordinary licence, as opposed to a public licence, and so would allow the airport management to control its use.

By 1985 it would be necessary to provide for the needs of those who would no longer be able to use Gatwick. Mr Fitzgerald said. The British Airports Authority had indicated that before that time it would have to "evict" many of the present general aviation users and that small aircraft movements might need to be

reduced to about half the present level of 15,000 a year.

The company was conscious of the urgent need to do something to meet business aviation requirements, he added. It saw the Wisley site as ideal and it expected its proposed course of action to be held as a responsible one and as a positive step to assist the economy.

It became clear yesterday, however, that Mr Fitzgerald's claims were not shared by either the BAA or the Civil Aviation Authority.

In evidence to the inquiry to be heard later the BAA suggested that general aviation activity at Wisley would be detrimental to the flow of air traffic using both Heathrow and Gatwick airports and might have an adverse effect.

The CAA acknowledged that if pressure was put on general aviation at those airports then the needs of business jet users would be badly served. Wisley could help to fill that gap. But most flights to and from Wisley would be within controlled air space shortly after take-off and until a late stage before landing.

£100,000 gift to aid research

From John Charrles Manchester

A cheque for £100,000 to help to establish a fellowship for research into crippling diseases was handed over yesterday to the acting Vice-Chancellor of Manchester University, Professor Dennis Welland.

Sir Harry Platt, aged 94, Professor Emeritus of Orthopaedic Surgery at the university, after whom the fellowship fund is being named, expressed pleasure that such research would be undertaken in the part of England that he regarded as the birthplace of modern orthopaedic surgery. The research fellow will operate within the university's orthopaedic surgery department at Hope Hospital, Salford.

The cheque was presented by General Sir Victor FitzGerald, Balfour chairman of Action Research, and it is likely to be followed by a target of at least £50,000 from an appeal directed mainly at industry in the North-west, launched yesterday by Sir George Kayson, treasurer of Manchester University.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY T177

British Airways seeks 15% domestic fares increase

By Richard Ford

British Airways has applied to the Civil Aviation Authority for permission to raise domestic air fares by 15 per cent from April 1. It would be the first increase in flights in the United Kingdom for a year.

The airline said that fuel costs had risen by 30 per cent and landing charges by 20 per cent in the past year. These costs accounted for half the operating budget, compared with 15 per cent in 1973. The increase would be lower than the inflation rate for the past year.

British Airways, expecting to lose more than £100m in this financial year, has made economies and cut staff by 10 per cent in the past 18 months.

The proposed increases include the single shuttle service between London and Belfast, up from £43 to £49, and the single shuttle from London to Glasgow, from £47 to £54. Standby fares on both routes would rise from £20 to £25. A single fare from London to Manchester would rise from £33 to £38, standby from £15 to £20.

On the possibility of other domestic carriers increasing fares, British Caledonian said

yesterday it had no plans for a rise in the "spring or summer".

Dan-Air said it was considering the costs of scheduled services. It was likely that fares on flights to the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man would rise between 7½ and 10 per cent.

British Airways, which announced last week that it planned to reduce some European fares by between £19 and £40, said that comparisons could not be made between the cost of domestic and European or transatlantic flights. Landing charges in the United Kingdom were high, and domestic flights were for short distances, often with few passengers.

British Airways also announced that a new two-class service would start on routes to the Irish Republic on April 1. The single club class fare, London to Dublin, will be £55.50; tourist £49. Concorde standby British Airways will introduce standby fares on the Concorde New York route from March 1 (the Press Association reports). At £675 one-way they will be £162 cheaper than the present first-class fare.

MPs argue for change in fish industry body

By Our Parliamentary Staff

Opponents of the proposal to create a statutory authority for the fishing industry, with eight representatives of the industry and four independent members, spent yesterday morning deploying their arguments.

In the Commons standing committee on the Fisheries Bill, which sets up the new authority, MPs were still discussing Opposition amendments to reduce the authority to six independent members when the debate was adjourned.

The minister in charge of the Bill, Mr Alick Buchanan-Smith, Minister of State for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, will reply later. There is no indication that he will give way on the central feature of the Bill, especially as Mr Peter Walker, the minister, believes his proposals have gained broad acceptance in the industry.

Mr Gavin Strang, Labour MP for Edinburgh, East, and opposition spokesman on fisheries, said the new authority would be much more effective and could act more collectively on behalf of the nation and the industry. It is consisted of people who were more independent.

A Minor exhibit

The Morris Minor 1000 car which formerly belonged to the Archbishop of Canterbury and then completed the 3,000-mile Himalayan rally was officially handed over to the National Motor Museum at Beaulieu, Hampshire, yesterday.

Man found with pistol outside bank

An alert was flashed to Blackpool police when David Mark McDonough, aged 20, a club singer, was seen with a pistol sticking in a car outside a bank, magistrates at Blackpool were told yesterday.

Two detectives took him from the car and found a replica

magnum .37 pistol in a shoulder holster. The police said they were satisfied that Mr McDonough, of Loftus Avenue, Blackpool, had no criminal intent. He was bound over for two years for acting in a manner likely to cause a breach of the peace.

HOME NEWS

Kent's 12.3% rate rise
bodes ill for
Mr Heseltine's hopes

By Christopher Warman
Local Government
Correspondent

Kent County Council announced yesterday a rate precept increase of 12.3 per cent for 1981-82, giving a clear indication that general increases are likely to be substantially above the levels hoped for by the Government.

The increase, which will mean a rate rise of 14.7 per cent for Kent householders if the district councils in the county raise their rates by a similar amount, conflicts with the Government's inflation allowance of rises of about 7 per cent, made up of 6 per cent for pay and 1 per cent for prices.

Since Kent, the first to set its rate, has followed government guidelines on spending cuts—in fact it has set a budget 56m below its entitlement under the grant-related spending assessment—and has benefited from the new block grant, the indications are that rate rises generally will be well above the predictions of Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment.

After his announcement of the rate-support grant last month, using the new block grant system, Mr Heseltine suggested that if councils followed the Government's guidelines rate increases should be very small, even nil.

In general the counties did well from the grant settlement at the expense of the cities,

where much larger increases are expected.

But councils throughout the country have become anxious as their treasurers work out what is needed, and an emergency meeting of the joint consultative council on local government finance is to be held tomorrow to discuss the matter.

The erratic workings of the new system are illustrated by the likely rate increases in other county councils. For Cambridgeshire the increase is understood to be about 10 per cent, with a little spending over the assessment; Hertfordshire is likely to put its precept up by 9 per cent, spending £3.4m over its assessment; Somerset by 6 per cent with an over-spending of up to £2m; and Buckinghamshire by 13 to 15 per cent, spending £9m over the assessment.

In the past two years Kent has cut its county council staff of about 50,000 by 3,000 without compulsory redundancy, and now has a policy of careful scrutiny before filling any vacancy.

Sir John Grugeon, leader of the council, said yesterday that the budget reflected the 3 per cent cut imposed by the Government. "We are moving steadily and rightly into a policy of retrenchment," he said, "looking at new ways of solving old problems at lower cost."

Pressure for
safeguard
in mental
health Bill

By Lucy Hodges

MIND, the mental health pressure group, is fighting a safeguard it considers vital to patients to be included in the new mental health Bill being prepared in Whitehall.

The issue concerns a patient's right to refuse treatment, which MIND thinks is one of the most important aspects of any re-drafting of mental health law.

The group is meeting Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services, on Monday to press for the White Paper's commitment on consent to treatment to be included in any new law.

The Royal College of Psychiatrists is known to be unhappy about the proposal on consent to treatment in the White Paper produced in 1978 by the former Labour government. That said, hazardous, irreversible or not fully established treatment, could not be given without the consent of the patient, except to save life.

Even when the patient did consent, treatment might be given only with the agreement of an outside review body.

The White Paper said that a second opinion would come from a multi-disciplinary panel established by the area health authority and it should be sought when there was any doubt about whether a particular treatment was dangerous, irreversible or not fully established.



A hearse in Downing Street yesterday carrying a petition for a rise in the £30 death grant.

Hostage 'shot trying
to protect friend'

By Stewart Tendler
Crime Reporter

One of the hostages in the Iranian Embassy siege in London told a jury at the Central Criminal Court yesterday that he was shot as he tried to protect a friend from terrorist gunfire when members of the Special Air Service Regiment attacked the building.

Mr Akmed Dadgar, a diplomat, broke down as he recalled the incident and his injuries. The man he tried to save died.

A few minutes after the shooting, the court was told, one of the terrorists was shot by the SAS as he clutched a hand grenade. Others who took part in the shooting were killed later by the SAS as they sat against a wall. One received multiple wounds and the other died from a bullet in the back of the neck.

Mr Dadgar, giving evidence on the fourth day of the trial of Fowzi Nejad, aged 23, who has pleaded not guilty to two charges of murder, said that he and his friend entered the room where the hostages were.

The terrorists closed the door and began firing. Mr Dadgar added: "As soon as I saw them shooting I tried to cover my friend." He and Mr Ali Akbar Samadzadeh, his friend and a student who worked part-time at the embassy, attempted to duck down behind chairs as

the terrorists sprayed the hostages.

Mr Dadgar, who entered the court with the aid of a walking stick, told Mr Justice Park that he received one bullet through the lung, another just below the heart and one in each hip. At that point he slumped back saying: "I am not sorry for myself." Later the court was told that Mr Samadzadeh died.

After the shooting, Mr Dadgar said, the hostages implored the gunmen to surrender. One of them, Mr Nejad, tried to use a hand grenade as a hostage told him to save the others.

A statement read to the court from Mr Fawzi Khabaz said that shortly before the end of the siege one of the terrorists wrote a note to Police Constable Trevor Lock, the policeman captured by the terrorists, in which he said he was going to escape and save the hostages, and asked for a safe conduct.

Mr Richard DuCann, QC, for the defence, said that it was admitted that Faisal, the second in command of the terrorists, was shot by the SAS. He said the men ran out of the room where the hostages were held still holding a hand grenade and had been shot.

The trial continues today.

Seat on pay body for
non-striking teachers

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

The Government's much-leaked decision to give the Professional Association of Teachers a seat on the Burnham Committee, the national negotiating body on teachers' pay, was announced in the Commons yesterday by Mr Mark Carlisle, Secretary of State for Education and Science.

He also said he was increasing the number of representatives of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers from six to seven.

Those changes still leave the National Union of Teachers with half the seats on the 32-member teachers' panel. The National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education, which remains its single seat, almost always votes with the NUT, so that union will retain an overall majority.

Mr Fred Jarvis, general secretary of the NUT, said that it was clear all along that the Professional Association of Teachers, which refuses to take part in any strike would be included on the committee "for purely political reasons". In his

view the association, which has 20,000 members, was too insignificant to merit a seat.

The association will be present at the meeting today of the Burnham teachers' panel, the first meeting in the new pay round. It will recommend a 6 per cent pay rise for teachers from April 1, plus 2 per cent from September 1.

"We are making this realistic recommendation to protect the jobs of our members and to offer some hope of employment to student teachers," Mr Peter Dawson, the association's general secretary, said. Anything above the 6 per cent allowed for by the Government would result in further teacher redundancies, he said.

The local authorities have not yet decided what they will offer the 470,000 teachers. Individual authorities have suggested everything from minus 1 per cent to 6 per cent. It is most unlikely that they would go higher than that.

It has been estimated that every 1 per cent increase in the teachers' salary bill of £3,550m could cost about 4,500 teachers' jobs.

Left-handedness in boys
linked with breech births

From a Staff Reporter
Manchester

A research worker at Manchester Science University Institute of Science and Technology has found indications that the most probable causes of left-handedness are breech delivery of a male child or a woman aged 39 or over giving birth for the first time.

An examination of records of births to 2,670 women at St Mary's Hospital, Manchester, in 1971 has shown that while boys are more likely to be left-handed than girls (19.9 per cent, against 13.6 per cent), as many as 40 per cent of boys born by breech delivery were

left-handed, although that method of delivery had no significant effect on girls.

The other outstanding finding was that 43 per cent of first children of both sexes born to women aged 39 or over were left-handed.

The research was carried out by Miss Nicole Jeffery while working for her MSc degree. It was summarized in a paper written in collaboration with Dr James Smart, of Manchester University department of child health, and Professor Bernard Richards, of the computer department of Manchester University Institute of Science and Technology.

Liberal urges Labour dissidents to act

By Fred Emery
Political Editor

A sharp reminder that Liberals see themselves as the cutting edge of any new alliance with social democrats was given last night by Mr Alan Belth, the Liberal Chief Whip. And he suggested that the "big names" among Labour dissidents did not soon make up their minds, they would find that constituency supporters had already joined the Liberals.

Speaking at Derby, Mr Belth conveyed the disappointment shared by senior Liberals that last weekend's opinion poll had been widely seen as acclaiming Mrs Shirley Williams' leadership. In fact, the poll produced its leading 31 per cent for an alliance between the Liberals and a social democratic grouping led by Mrs Williams, which is a joint venture.

Mr Belth pointed to 50 years where Liberals, now in second place, were within reach of victory. "There are no seats which any new social democratic party looks at all likely to win," he remarked. "The potential strength of any new

social democratic group is therefore heavily dependent on how many Labour MPs are prepared to make the break, and he went on: "We are not prepared to see that cutting edge blunted by badly thought out, last minute schemes. Those who share our determination to change British politics for the better must now act for themselves the basic question, can a new grouping add to the number of parliamentary seats which Liberals can gain for this cause?"

Letters, page 11

Old Vic actor disappears

By Martin Barker
Theatre Reporter

The Old Vic Theatre has run into trouble again. It has had to postpone the opening of its production of Vanbrugh's Restoration comedy *The Relapse*, because one of the actors has disappeared.

Previews of the play were due to start last night, but on Monday the theatre received a telegram from Barry Woolgar, who was due to play Loveless, one of the leading roles, which said: "I can't go on—cannot cope—have gone." As a result last night's and tonight's performances were cancelled and the first night was postponed until next Tuesday.

The Old Vic has no idea where the actor has gone, nor has his agent. The telegram was sent from Heathrow airport.

So the theatre has found a new actor for the part, Richard Kay, who is the younger brother of Mr David Kay, the company's vice-chairman. He is hurriedly learning the role, ready for the first preview tomorrow night.

The Old Vic said yesterday that it was aware that Mr Woolgar had been under some strain, but had not realized that anything was seriously wrong.

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Pension rise may
be cut below
rate of inflation

By Pat Healy
Social Services Correspondent

Pensions rose last November by 1 per cent more than the rate of inflation since the previous pension increase, the December retail prices index figures have confirmed.

That will pave the way for the Government to implement its proposal to reduce the pension increase to 1 per cent below the estimated inflation rate.

If the Government does go ahead, it will mean a new Bill, possibly before the Budget, and a political argument, since pensioners rose by about £1 a week less for a single person and £2 a week less for a married couple than they would have done under previous legislation.

The Government's intention was announced by Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, who said in November that because of a more rapid decrease in the inflation rate there had been an "over-provision" of an estimated 1 per cent in the pensions increase that month. It was proposed to deduct that from the 1981 increase.

Confirmation of the inflation rate between the last two pension increases had to wait for the December prices figures because 24 weeks elapsed between them. That meant that the November figures alone were not sufficient to confirm the inflation rate at the time of the last increase.

In addition the November pensions increase was lower because the Government changed the law to drop the link with earnings increases and refused to make good the shortfall the previous year.

Both points will be raised with MPs in what is expected to be a mass rally outside Parliament on March 4, which has been designated "national pensioners' day" by the TUC-sponsored National Pensioners Convention.

A member of the extreme right-wing British Movement who stored guns and ammunition at his parents' farm and distributed racist stickers was jailed for seven years by a judge at Birmingham Crown Court yesterday.

Roderick Lewis Roberts, aged 27, of Central Avenue, Longbridge, Birmingham, was said by the prosecution to have been the quartermaster for a 20-strong branch of the British Movement in the West Midlands.

He pleaded guilty to 10 charges of possessing firearms and ammunition, an arson charge arising from an attack with a smoke device on a Job Centre office in Birmingham, and was found guilty of illegally acquiring a Mauser

pistol and conspiracy to stir up racial hatred.

Mr Anthony Barker, for the prosecution, said that weapons, including a Sten gun, an anti-riot gun, revolvers and pistols, were found in a pigsty at Spetchley, Worcestershire, the home of Mr Roberts' parents.

Harvey Stock, aged 40, of Woodbrooke Road, Bournville, Birmingham, who was described as the group's press officer, received a two-year prison sentence, suspended for two years, for conspiring to stir up racial hatred and arson.

Another British Movement member, Robert Giles, aged 25, of Church Street, Bicester, Oxfordshire, who told detectives he believed in the principles and teachings of Adolf Hitler, received an 18-month prison sentence, suspended for two years, for carrying an offensive weapon, a flick knife, and con-

spiring with Mr Roberts to acquire the Mauser pistol.

Reginald Cox, aged 36, a gun dealer, of Carlton Terrace, Burnwood, Staffordshire, who supplied Mr Roberts with most of the guns, was sent to prison for eight years. That included a five-year sentence for sexual offences against nine girls.

Ian Fraser Gilmore, aged 27, gun dealer, of Charter Close, Norton Canes, Staffordshire, received a two-year jail sentence, suspended for two years, for illegal possession of firearms, and Harold Simcox, aged 33, a former National Front candidate, of Grace Road, Tipton, West Midlands, received an 18-month sentence, suspended for two years, for carrying a gun.

John Stokes, aged 33, of Newton Street, West Bromwich, who admitted stealing from his employers, Webby and Scott, the gunmakers, was jailed for two years.

Four men deny
conspiracy to
corrupt morals

Four men pleaded not guilty at the Central Criminal Court yesterday to charges of conspiring to corrupt morals by publishing a contact sheet.

They are: Thomas O'Carroll, aged 34, a former information officer at the Open University, of Lovell Street, Newport Pagnell, Buckinghamshire; David Wade, aged 37, a lorry driver, of Brooke Road, Stoke Newington, London; John Parrott, aged 32, a hot dog seller, of Upper Richmond Road, Putney, London; and Michael Dagnall, aged 35, a teacher of Hounslow Avenue, Tetten, Southampton.

Three and two other men, Mr David Grove, who is dead, and Mr Keith Grove, who is out of the country, were said to have been on the controlling body of the Paedophile Information Exchange from 1976 until 1978. The trial was adjourned until today.

Chancellor apologizes to
taxpayer aged 92

From Our Correspondent
Ludlow

A retired Herefordshire clergyman aged 92 who was accused by the Inland Revenue of tax-dodging is being given a rebate because he had paid too much tax.

The Rev Conway Davies, who now lives in Kingswood Hall Hospital, Kingston, has received a personal apology from Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The tax inspector had alleged that Mr Davies failed to declare £1,500 in fees for officiating at services, such as weddings and funerals, while working as a locum.

In fact Mr Davies, who retired 21 years ago, has not practised for many years. His son, Prebendary John Davies, vicar of Peterchurch, Herefordshire, said yesterday that his father had been caused considerable distress.

For some time he forgot to

send in any tax returns. "The Revenue assumed that he had been working and accused him of earning money for services," Mr Davies said.

He would have had to take wedding services all day long to earn £1,500, and the tax office knew his age, so the demand was ridiculous.

"The Revenue threatened to detain to recover the money, and that caused great distress. After investigation he is being given a rebate for paying too much tax."

His case was taken up by Mr Peter Temple-Morris, MP for Leominster, who wrote direct to Sir Geoffrey. Apologizing, the Chancellor says that in view of Mr Davies' age the tax officer would have been more reasonable to assume that he was no longer working.

Offering "my sincere apologies for the worry inadvertently caused," the Chancellor said the Inland Revenue had no desire to harass Mr Davies.

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In brief

Kent motorway
plan approved

The Government yesterday announced its approval for the 8.6-mile section of the M25 London orbital route between Swanley and Sevenoaks, in Kent, which has been fiercely opposed on environmental grounds.

Mr Kenneth Clarke, Parliamentary Secretary for Transport, said that the decision had been a "particularly sensitive" one, but the advantages of the route outweighed the disadvantages.

Protest by disabled

Twenty handicapped people refused to attend a free pantomime held for the International Year of Disabled People at the Key Theatre, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, yesterday after complaining that there were insufficient facilities for wheelchairs and walking frames.

Baby has pacemaker

A week-old baby has been given a heart pacemaker in an operation at Killingbeck Hospital, Leeds. Richard Andrew Brightmore, who has a congenital heart block, is believed to be the youngest person to have such an operation.

Journalists get 16%

Journalists at The Daily Telegraph yesterday accepted a pay offer yielding average increases of almost 16 per cent. The average salary will be £12,915 from next July.

Water action threat

Union delegates representing 2,000 water and sewerage workers in Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Cumbria yesterday voted to reject the employers' 7.9 per cent pay offer and to take industrial action.

Shoppers pay again

Debenhams' store in South ampton has had an overwhelming response from shoppers after it appealed to them to replace about 580,000 of cheque and credit card receipts stolen on December 29.

Waste Council goes

The abolition of the Waste Management Advisory Council and the National Anti-Waste Programme was confirmed in a Common written reply yesterday by Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry.

Maw sister pregnant

Charlene Maw, aged 18, of Bradford, who with her sister Annette is serving a prison sentence for the manslaughter of her father, is expecting a baby in the summer.

BR investigate theft

British Rail yesterday began an investigation into the theft of £52,000 of foreign currency from a train after the conviction of two men at Nottingham.

Ivory Madonna stolen

A carved ivory figure of the Madonna, dating from the seventeenth century, has been stolen from a plinth above the altar at Canterbury Cathedral.

Tobacco price rise

The price of most Carrera Rothmans' cigarettes will rise by 4p for 20 from today.

Garage men and
16 policemen on
65 summonses

Sixteen police officers and four garage directors were accused at Hertford Magistrates' Court yesterday of bribery and corruption.

The case arises from an inquiry into allegations of bribery from garages. The inquiry was centred on a traffic bus at Carston, near Watford. The policemen, including a woman constable, and the directors faced a total of 65 summonses. None of the defendants appeared.

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WEST EUROPE

Forlani coalition faces mounting industrial unrest as partners bicker over lack of coherent policy

From John Earle
Rome, Jan 20

While the hunt goes on for the kidnappers of Judge Giovanni D'Urso, Signor Arnaldo Forlani's Italian coalition government faces a period of mounting social and industrial tension.

Though the judge's release has temporarily eased the strains among its four components—Christian Democrats, Socialists, Social Democrats and Republicans—over how to deal with terrorism, fresh challenges have come from the public services and the steel and chemical industries.

The public has felt the discomfort of a strike by pilots of Alitalia and of widespread electricity blackouts. About three-quarters of the national flag-carrier's pilots, grouped in an independent trade union, are claiming annual salary increases ranging from 18m to 30m lire (17.825 to 113.040), while the company is reported to be offering 3m to 4m lire (£1.300 to £1.740).

Alitalia had to cancel most foreign and domestic flights, operating a few skeleton services with pilots belonging to the national trade union confederations.

Both public and industry are being subjected to more severe electricity cuts than ever before, mostly staggered over 90-minute periods in different parts of the country.

Power consumption has risen, during one of the hardest winters for years, while production is virtually static and the possi-

bilities of importing power from Switzerland and Austria are limited. Enel, the national electricity board, has given warning that the situation can only worsen.

Successive governments have produced a number of national energy plans over the years, providing for the building of nuclear and conventional power stations, but these have mostly remained a dead letter, partly through lack of drive and partly from local opposition on environmental grounds.

The simmering crisis in the nationalized steel industry has come into the open with the resignation of Signor Ambrogio Puri as chairman of Italsider, the country's biggest producer, with an annual output of about 10 million tons. He alleged lack of support for rationalization efforts from Signor Gianni De Michelis, the minister for state-owned industry.

The Republican Party has come to Signor Puri's defence, calling in a statement for a "coherent and planned government policy" for companies, like Italsider, which represent the backbone of industry.

Signor De Michelis is a Socialist and new again as a member of the "Puro" kidnapping, the two coalition parties are bickering with each other.

The partly state-owned Montedison, an ailing giant for much of the 1970s, is once more the trouble. The unions have called a series of strikes against dismissals which the management of Italy's biggest chemical

group says are essential to its recovery strategy.

Montedison's operating subsidiaries need to shed 9,000 over the next two years from a workforce of about 45,000, while Montefibre (fibres) plans to get rid of another 3,000, and Acna (dyes) another 840.

This is still a much healthier outlook than that facing the relics of the formerly privately-owned Società Italiana Resine and Liquichimica. The intention is for these to be taken over by the state corporation Eni, but, as a statement from the Ministry of State Industry pointed out, they have accumulated losses of 1,000,000 lire (about £435m), and the jobs of their 40,000 workers cannot be guaranteed.

Looking further ahead, these difficulties should be overcome in the framework of a three-year economic plan which the Government is due to approve by the end of January. Builders arrested: Five local officials and builders were arrested today on embezzlement and other charges in connection with contracts to build council houses after the January, 1980 earthquake in the Belice valley of western Sicily, where 40,000 people are still living in huts. Police are looking for another three.

The charges, in one of several cases being investigated by magistrates, allege that the final price paid for 38 council houses in the village of Menfi was more than double that stipulated in the original contract.

Lonely task for only woman in French poll

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, Jan 20

Mme Marie-France Garaud, the one-time adviser to President Pompidou and M Jacques Chirac, is waging a tough battle in the presidential elections for her ideas, if not for herself, and has no chance of beating the political heavyweights she has chosen to take on.

She is fighting without the backing of a party or a well organized political machine, without a ready-made platform, without substantial funds, and without the advantage of being a man in this politically still misogynist country, but with more than a common dose of courage and conviction.

What is important for her, she told a luncheon of the Anglo-American Press today, is to ensure that the political debate to which the campaign gives rise is clear and real; and that the main protagonists are driven out of the nebulous positions in which they have so far entrenched themselves.

She could not tell at this stage what was the policy of either President Giscard d'Estaing or M François Mitterrand, the Socialist leader.

In 1974, the President had fought the elections on national independence and economic recovery and she had supported him. But since then, his stand abroad endangered French independence and his economic policy was a flop.

What was Mitterrand's stand? He had stood for the



Mme Garaud: Trying to lift the level of debate.

union of the left. Now he was marking his distance from the Communists. He had approved the stationing of American SS20 missiles on European soil; but in December, at the Madrid conference of the Socialist International, he had approved its neutralist positions.

"I am not sure what the President's policy is. How then can he average Frenchman have

any clear idea of its objectives?" She asked: "I want these elections to serve some purpose, and I am beginning to see some small results for my efforts already in terms of the language which is being used. M François-Ponsler (the Foreign Minister) is much more cautious about détente. M Chirac has clarified his stand on foreign policy."

Daughter opposes Picasso handover

From Our Correspondent
Madrid, Jan 20

One of Pablo Picasso's daughters thinks Spain is not democratic enough for his civil war masterpiece, "Guernica", to be hung in a Spanish museum; and her attitude could delay the handing over of the painting to the Spanish Government by the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Madrid newspaper *El País* said today.

The daughter, Maya, born to his French companion Marie-Thérèse Walter, is the only close relative of Picasso who is known to oppose delivery of the painting to Spain. In an interview published in *El País*, she says: "My father would not have approved of this transfer."

Picasso painted the big canvas to call the world's attention to the devastating dive-bomb attack on the Basque town of Guernica by Hitler's Luftwaffe which supported General Franco during the civil war. He always said that it was dedicated to the Spanish people, and should be placed in their custody once the republic was reestablished and democratic freedoms were assured.

Since last October the painting has been awaiting shipment from the New York museum to Madrid in accordance with Picasso's wishes, confirmed by the family's lawyer, M Ronald Dumas in 1977. No explanation for the delay has been offered

by either the Spanish Government or the Museum of Modern Art, which has been keeping the picture since 1939.

Spanish authorities would like to hang the painting in the Casón del Buen Retiro, an annex of the Prado museum in Madrid, this year, the one hundredth anniversary of Picasso's birth in Malaga. Exhibitions and events throughout Spain are scheduled to commemorate the centenary.

The painter's daughter says in the interview, that her father spoke of the return of the republic, whereas Spain is now a monarchy.

She also feels that there is not enough freedom yet. She objects to the fact that there is no divorce law in Spain, and she is not satisfied with the legal status of illegitimate children.

"We cannot speak of democracy in Spain," she says, "as long as the Army and the police of the old regime are retained."

According to *El País* there is a remote possibility of the case going to the International Court of Justice in The Hague. Officials of Spain's Directorate of Fine Arts are to talk over the matter again later this week with Picasso's widow, Jacqueline, his children, Marina, Paloma, Claude and Maya, and his grandson, Bernard.

Snow closes tunnel

Chamonix, Jan 20. Heavy snow over the French Alps forced the closure of the Mount Blanc road tunnel to Italy. Skiing resorts in the area of Val d'Isère were cut off.

El Al manager beaten

Copenhagen, Jan 20. The manager of the Copenhagen office of the Israeli airline El Al was beaten and seriously injured last night. His office was daubed with swastikas.

Portugal facing daunting tasks

Oil costs and drought threaten economy

From Richard Wigg
Lisbon, Jan 20

The outcome of the debate on Portugal's new Government, which began today is not in doubt. By the end of the week its parliamentary majority will have easily voted down the Socialists' "no confidence" motion and approved the Government programme.

But there are three main problems for the new Administration to face—reform of the 1976 Constitution, the worsening economic situation, and negotiations for entry to the European Community.

Unfortunately the world depression considerably complicates the task of developing the country's frail economic structure and at the same time adapting it to EEC competition.

Decisions like the Opec oil price rises in Bali last autumn and the lack of winter rains over much of Portugal's north-east and Alentejo in the south are far more important for the country's economy than any government programmes or declarations in Brussels.

Because of the Ball decision, Portugal, which has to import 83 per cent of its energy requirements, found its petrol bill shooting up from about \$50m last year to about £1,250m this year. If the rains do not come in the next month, filling the reservoirs and dams and saving livestock, there will be power shortages as well as increased food imports.

This will worsen balance of payments difficulties, and Senator Francisco Pinto Balsemão, the Prime Minister, said on taking office it would "not be convenient" to increase any further the country's "very high" foreign debt, which this year is 70,000m escudos (£530m).

In the present world depression it is becoming increasingly difficult to export enough to pay for imports—let alone modernize the country for EEC entry.

The new Government has created a new Ministry for European Integration, with Senator Alvaro Barreto, an American-trained businessman and former ambassador, as its first minister, taking charge of the negotiations with Brussels.

But Mr Gaston Thorn, the new President of the EEC Commission, has just given the minister a cold douche, pushing back the realistic date for Portugal's entry and, apparently, linking it with that of Spain.

Entry in 1985, instead of January 1, 1983, as planned, is bad enough; but the apparent linkage with Spain really worries Lisbon. The Portuguese, perhaps naively, wanted to get in before the peninsula's "big brother" thinking that would mean more favourable terms. They also want to avoid being left out, along with Spain, if their neighbour's application runs into trouble in Brussels.

It was the Socialists under Dr Mário Soares's premiership in 1977 who began the approaches to Brussels. But now their motion of "no confidence" criticizes the Pinto Balsemão Government for proposing more enterprise and increased productivity, and for opposing Portugal's economic backwardness and paved the way for EEC entry.

The Socialists, now in opposition, are unwilling to let the Communists win all the political advantages if anti-EEC feelings arise from the economic hardships being suffered by the Portuguese—steep price increases at the new year are estimated to have reduced the purchasing power of basic wages by as much as a quarter.

Behind the conciliatory language about "institutional solidarity" exchanged by the President and the Prime Minister, the powers of the Presidency look like being the most difficult problem to tackle in constitutional reform.

President Eanes is not the kind of man to give way easily and the December election results prove there is popular support for the way he interprets his constitutional role.

The Socialists have declared their objection to reducing the President's powers now they are in opposition. Their support is crucial for the two-thirds majority the coalition needs to muster for any constitutional reform. The Government has little margin for manoeuvre, therefore, in carrying out its election pledge to curb the semi-presidential system.

Señor Suárez in strong position to face critics

From Harry Debelius
Madrid, Jan 20

The confident survivor of two general elections, a vote of censure and a vote of confidence, Señor Adolfo Suárez, the Prime Minister, is expected to reconfirm his tenacious hold on the party apparatus of his Centre Democratic Union (UCD) when the party holds its second congress next week in Palma de Mallorca.

As the congress draws closer, it becomes more apparent that critics in his party have no chance of unseating him as secretary-general through the expedient of separating the party leadership from the Prime Minister's office. The critics are in the minority and the most they can expect to gain from the congress is a sympathetic ear.

While there is widespread concern within the party that voters are losing interest, there is reluctance at the top to heed the critical sector, which is more conservative than the main body. At the congress it may be possible to determine whether such reticence is the result of sound judgement about the attitudes of the electorate or whether it is merely a recurrence of the phobia on the part of Señor Suárez and his closest advisers towards adopting any position which might recall their previous loyalty to the dictatorship.

The challenge from the right within the party comes mainly from the Christian-Democrat sector; and it has had the effect of closing the ranks between the left and centre.

Some of the more pragmatic members of the Prime Minister's party realize that accommodation of the right must be effected within the UCD; otherwise the conservatives and the voters who support them could easily drift to the Popular Alliance (AP) headed by a former Interior Minister and ambassador to London, Professor Manuel Fraga Iribarne.

The Madrid Government's deputy in the Basque country, Señor Marcelino Oreja, one of the founders of the "Técnicos" group of Christian Democrat reformists, which burst on the political scene in the latter days of the Franco regime, is tipped as a potential peacemaker, since he shares the right-wing rebels' ambition to democratize the internal structure of the party without sharing their wish to replace Señor Suárez. Señor Rudolfín Martín Villa, the Minister for Territorial Administration, held "private conversations" in the Basque capital of Vitoria last weekend with Señor Oreja. A pro-Suárez man, Señor Martín Villa, probably has more political strength in the coming congress than any other leader of the party.

In a comparative study of railways in nine Western European countries, in terms of productivity* per man, Holland was first, Sweden second and Britain third.

Holland and Sweden, however, have much smaller and more modern rail networks than Britain.

Therefore, if we look at the 'big league' railways, Britain actually was number one.

Victory? Sadly, no. For this bare statistic, though well worth stating, does not reveal the whole picture. There is much room for improvement.

THE PAY AND PRODUCTIVITY DEAL OF MAY 1980

This fact was recognised in the Pay and Productivity Deal of May 1980. This far-reaching deal, concluded with the three rail unions, recognised the need for change in many sectors of British Rail's activities.

Described by a top union leader as "One of the toughest sets of negotiations I have ever known", it opened the door to reductions in manning levels, plus other improvements in efficiency in the freight and parcels businesses and other sectors.

These changes are estimated to save a total of £60 million (in 1980 prices) by 1983. Both management and unions are urgently considering how to accelerate this process. It is absolutely essential to the long-term health of the industry.

THE NEED FOR REDEPLOYMENT

From the railway community's point of view, there are other important facts to

be considered. British Rail employees stand lower on the industrial ladder than their European counterparts—on basic pay rates British Rail is at present a low wage business.

Yet British Rail is not a low wage-cost railway. As the study also shows, railwaymen in this country work longer hours than their European counterparts.

The solution to this problem is to alter out-of-date methods of working and to redeploy manpower resources on a continuing basis. There are, after all, a large number of unfilled railway vacancies at present.

A GOOD DEAL, BUT WILL IT BE TRANSLATED INTO ACTION IN TIME?

There's plenty going for it. Consider, for instance, British Rail's impressive labour relations record compared with other UK industries.

Over the last 20 years, there has been a massive rationalisation of British Rail's business, achieved with remarkably little friction. In the last 15 years, there has been a reduction of 150,000 posts with 31,000 going in the 1970's—at a time of rising unemployment which was not exactly a helpful background to achieve reductions on this scale.

British Rail's staff know full well that, with increased efficiency, the railways can command success.

In 1979, passenger sales mileage was actually higher than in 1961 when the network was 30% larger and there were only half as many cars on the road.

CHALLENGING THE CRITICS

British Rail's fares and charges are higher than other railways in Europe. Critics can (and do) cite overmanning and other inefficient uses of resources as the main reason for this.

They are wrong.

The main reason for high charges is that British Rail is expected to operate with a far greater self-financing ratio than any other major railway in Western Europe.

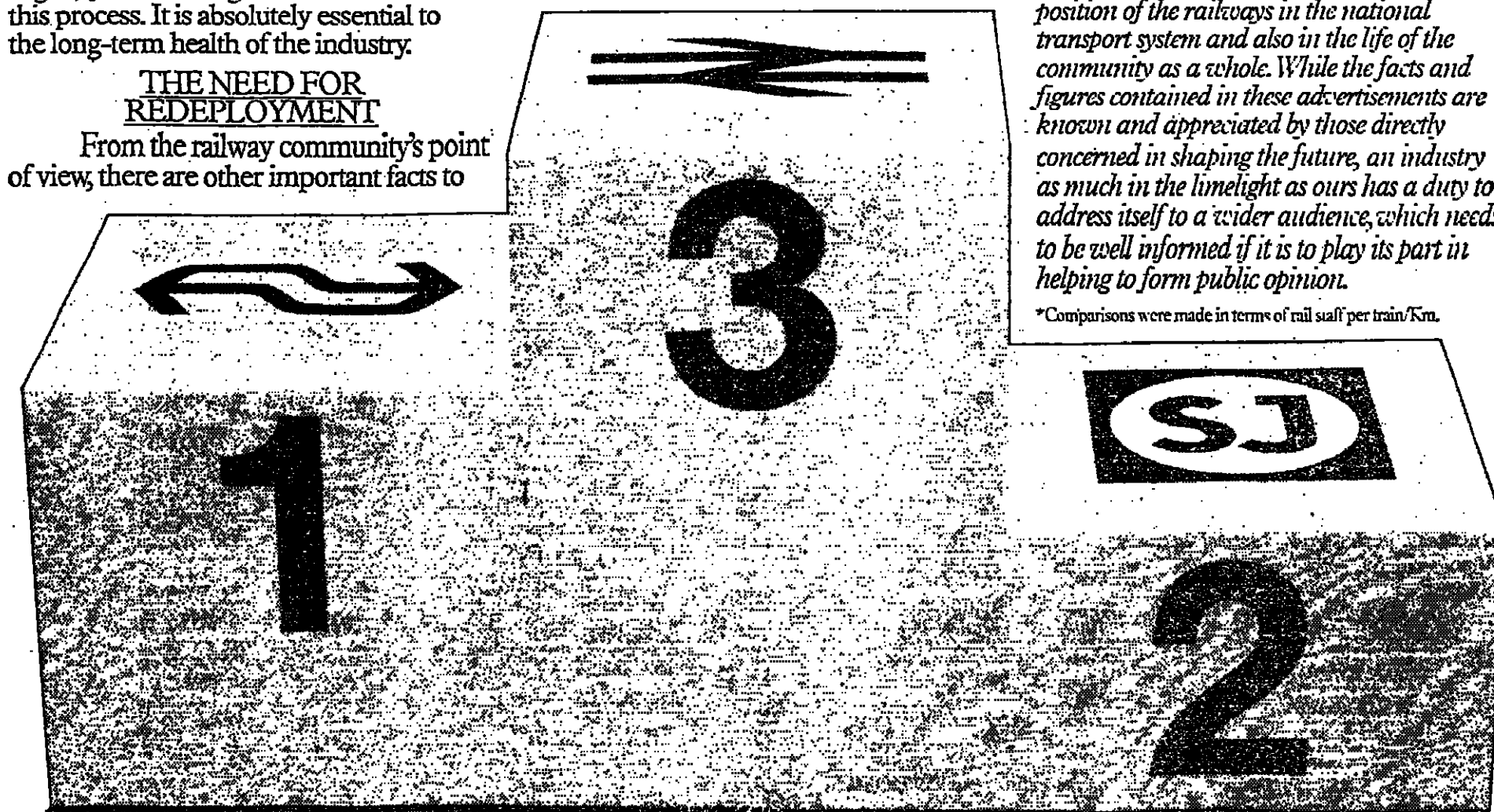
By continuing to improve productivity, British Rail can remove a major excuse for ignoring the real problem facing the railways—the need for a realistic financial framework.

Increased investment will achieve further improvements in productivity and thus raise public confidence in the economics of the rail business.

And secure the right role for the railways in the wealth creating process.

This is one of a series of advertisements designed to increase public awareness of the position of the railways in the national transport system and also in the life of the community as a whole. While the facts and figures contained in these advertisements are known and appreciated by those directly concerned in shaping the future, an industry as much in the limelight as ours has a duty to address itself to a wider audience, which needs to be well informed if it is to play its part in helping to form public opinion.

*Comparisons were made in terms of rail staff per train/km.



This is the age of the train

OVERSEAS

Threat of ban forces black newspapers to close in S Africa

From Nicholas Ashford Johannesburg, Jan 20

South Africa's two most popular black newspapers, *The Post* (Transvaal) and *The Sunday Post*, have been forced to close down because the Government has threatened to ban them if they resume publication.

Both papers ceased publication last October when editorial staff, members of the black union Media Workers' Association, went on strike in support of colleagues involved in a labour dispute on *The Cape Herald* newspaper.

When the strike ended just before Christmas, the Government told *The Post* owners, the Argus Publishing Company, that registration of the papers had lapsed under the terms of the Internal Security Act.

Today the company was informed by Mr Christian Heunis, the Interior Minister, that although the Government could not by law prevent the publishers from continuing registration, it would ban the papers if this was done.

Mr Hal Miller, managing director of Argus, said the Government had told him it had decided some time ago to ban the two newspapers, but the decision had not been implemented because the strike had kept the papers off the streets. No reason was given for the decision.

Because of the strike, registration of the newspapers had lapsed. Argus applied immediately either for the Government to condone the lapse in registration or for the papers to be registered.

Mr Miller said the company had decided not to proceed with the application for registration because "we see no point in making a futile gesture by insisting on registration and then submitting to the injustice of actual banning."

This is the second time in just over three years that the Government's axe has fallen on what is the only effective mass medium of black opinion in South Africa. *The Post* had an average daily circulation of

112,000 with an estimated 907,000 readers. *The Sunday Post* had a circulation of about 118,000 and an estimated readership of 1,200,000.

The two papers' predecessors, *The World* and *Weekend World*, were banned in October, 1977, along with 16 Black Consciousness organizations. Shortly before their closure Mr James Kruger, the then Minister of Justice, had complained about a leading article in *The World* about the death in police detention of Mr Steve Biko, the Black Consciousness leader.

Although *The Post* was not as outspoken as *The World* had been, it nevertheless stood firmly in support of black interests and was often robust in its criticism of the Government's race policies.

The editor of *The Post* and *The Sunday Post* was Mr Percy Qoboka who had previously been in charge of *The World*. He spent several months in detention after the latter paper was banned. Last week Mr Qoboka, who is presently in the United States, announced that he was resigning as the editor of the *Post* papers.

The closing of the two papers was widely condemned today. Bishop Desmond Tutu, general secretary of the South African Council of Churches, said he was distressed that the Government still refused to learn that banning a newspaper would "not ban the thoughts and feelings of the masses."

Because the Government's action would "not freeze the political turmoil in the townships, nor will it give any government more time to find a solution. Instead the move will add extremism and discomfort many moderates."

Several commentators noted that the Government's stand has come at a time when a full-scale investigation into the press is being carried out by a commission headed by Judge Steyn.

Steyn Commission, Mr Rex Gibson, editor of the *Sunday Express*, said the move showed how little confidence the Government had both in the commission and the concept of press freedom.

Commercial whaling stopped by Russia

From Michael Binyon Moscow, Jan 20

In a significant step towards a total ban on commercial whaling, the Russians announced that their fishing fleet in the Far East has stopped whaling and converted its fleet into floating fish processing bases.

The Russians, together with the Japanese, are the only two countries still engaged in whaling on a large scale, and both have come under strong pressure from conservationists at international whaling conferences.

Tass announced last week that the Soviet Fleet in the Far East, the principal base for the country's fishing industry, would henceforth catch only "several" whales each year, to satisfy the needs of the inhabitants of the extreme north-east of Siberia.

The ban is part of an extensive programme for nature conservation. Vast tracts of the almost uninhabited Kamchatka Peninsula, the island of Sakhalin and the region around Vladivostok have been proclaimed reservations and sanctuaries, complementing the first Soviet maritime reservation in Peter the Great Bay, off Vladivostok.

The far eastern centre of the Soviet Academy of Science is drafting guidelines for putting into effect in Siberia the new national decrees on conservation over the next 10 years, while local authorities have sharply increased their appropriations for nature protection.

Recently, the Russians announced that, thanks to a ban on hunting in the Bering Sea and the far north, the walrus population of the east Siberian seas has multiplied two and a half times over the last twenty years.

Scientists are making aerial surveys to determine the true numbers. In the northern seas of the Arctic region the hunting of seals and sea animals is already subject to strict quotas, and satellite photography is used to see that they are enforced.

Leading article, page 15



Taking the oath: Watched by his wife, Mr Reagan is sworn in as the next President.

Mr Reagan uses words of Kennedy

Continued from page 1

Mr Reagan, we are told, wrote much of his speech himself after studying those delivered by his predecessors. One striking feature of the inaugural address was a striking reprise of John Kennedy's inaugural speech, another used key words from Jimmy Carter's.

"Freedom and the dignity of the individual have been more available and assured here than in any other place on earth. The price for this freedom has not been high, but we have never been unwilling to pay that price."

That was a close paraphrase of Kennedy. A moment later, addressing Americans directly, calling them heroes, he said: "I shall reflect the commitment that is so much a part of your make-up. How can we love our country and not love our countrymen? And loving them, reach out a hand when they fall, heal them when they are sick, and provide opportunity to make them self-sufficient so they will be equal not just in theory? That was pure Carter."

Mr Reagan also paraphrased

Winston Churchill, this time naming his source. "I did not take the oath I have just taken with the intention of presiding over the dissolution of the world's strongest economy."

After the ceremony, President Reagan and Vice-President Bush attended a dinner in the Capitol building offered by Congress, and former President Carter left for Plains, Georgia. He was welcomed home by a street party arranged by townspeople and left two hours later.

He returned to Washington, to join the delegation that is flying to Wiesbaden tonight to meet the hostages.

Soviet greeting President Reagan with a telegram of congratulations to President Reagan on his inauguration and called for "constructive cooperation" between the United States and Soviet Union (UPI reports from Moscow).

Chinese reminder: Mr Zhao Ziyang, the Chinese Premier, sent a telegram to the new President apparently reminding him to keep relations with the Nationalist Chinese Govern-

ment on Taiwan unofficial.

"During your tenure of office, the relations between China and the United States will continue to develop and the traditional friendship between our two great peoples will grow in strength steadily on the basis of both sides firmly abiding by the principles of the communiqué on the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries," he said.

The United States severed relations with Taiwan when it established diplomatic relations with China on January 1, 1979. In other messages of congratulations, President Sandro Pertini of Italy said: "The duties which you are confronting are the most serious and your responsibility is and will be before the eyes of not only your people but also the entire world."

President Giscard d'Estaing of France said: "At the moment of your accession to the presidency of the United States, I send you my warmest wishes for the success in your high mission."

Moment of truth for Mr Reagan at the presidential inaugural gala

From Michael Leppman New York, Jan 20

At the end of last night's two-hour inaugural gala, the presidential equivalent of a Royal Command variety performance, Mr Ronald Reagan stepped on to the stage at Washington's Capitol Centre, the indoor sports stadium where the gala was held.

He disclosed to the 19,000 spectators that many friends had asked him in the past few days whether the fact of becoming President had really sunk in.

"Tonight," he said, "there was a point in the programme where I leaned over to her [his wife Nancy] and said: 'It's sunk in.'"

Maddeningly, he did not reveal what that point was. It could have been when Rich Little, the American answer to Mike Yarwood, did a fine impersonation of him.

The court martial found him guilty in September of membership of a communist organization favouring North Korea and of attempting an insurrection.

the next President and first lady. The programme, which had been put together by Frank Sinatra, the oldest-time crooner of them all, reflected the unadventurous conservatism which has already become the hallmark of the new President.

It was filled with moments of cloying sentimentality that only Americans know how to carry off without self-consciousness. Scherz-Merman, the singer, who at 72 is even older than Mr Reagan, set the tone with some changes to the words of "Everything's coming up roses."

"You'll be swell," she trilled, "You'll be great," and in a later version "You've got nothing to do but relax." Mr Reagan was certainly doing that, laughing broadly at the jokes about the Carters, about Mr George Bush, the Vice-President, and about jelly-beans.

Which, as all the world knows by now, are Mr Reagan's favourite food. He and Mrs Reagan, in a black gown with a ragal train,

sat on a raised dais in two blue armchairs, a secret service man in evening clothes standing behind each of them. The first couple looked like the king and queen in *Hamlet*, watching the players.

Patriotic moments abounded appropriately, though it was probably a mistake to ask Marie Osmond, who has difficulty in pronouncing the letter "r" in "America, arise again."

Another piece of high emotion came when America's only surviving five-star general, Omar Bradley, who is nearly 88 and chairbound, was wheeled on to the stage by James Earl Ray, the assassin.

Frank Sinatra occupied the last quarter of an hour, singing about Chicago and New York (why are there no popular songs about Washington, DC?) and explicitly altering "Nancy with the laughing face" to "Nancy with the Reagan face," a less attractive Nancy Reagan laughed anyway and blew Frank Sinatra an elegant kiss.

It had sunk in.

EEC sends envoy on Middle East tour

From Michael Hornsby Brussels, Jan 20

The EEC is to press ahead with its attempt to play an independent peace-making role in the Middle East and at the same time to ease the support of the new American Administration for what the Community is trying to do.

At their first meeting since the Christmas break, EEC foreign ministers authorized Dr Christoph van der Klauw, their Dutch colleague, to undertake a new round of visits to Middle East capitals and to make an interim report to the next EEC summit meeting in Maastricht on March 22 and 24.

Dr van der Klauw has been asked to put what senior officials described as "a series of questions" to Arab and Israeli leaders to clarify in more detail their response to the declaration on the Middle East conflict issued by the EEC last June in Venice.

A first sounding of reaction was undertaken last August and September by Mr Gaston Thorn. In one of his last tasks as Foreign Minister of Luxembourg, Mr Thorn has since taken over the presidency of the European Commission from Mr Roy Jenkins.

Dr van der Klauw's mission is seen largely as a holding operation, to keep Arab interest in the EEC's diplomatic activities alive, until such time as the attitude of the new United States Government has clarified.

The Americans have hitherto said that they consider the Camp David talks between Egypt and Israel the only workable approach to a peace settlement. They disagree with the EEC that the Palestine Liberation Organization needs to be actively involved.

It is already clear that if the studied coolness of the outgoing Carter regime to the EEC initiative turns into open hostility under President Reagan this will deal a death-blow to the Community's hopes of playing an effective role.

Although France and one or two other EEC member states might want to press an even in the face of strong American opposition, it appears that the majority, including Britain, would regard such a policy as empty posturing serving no practical purpose.

Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, who was one of the main authors of the Venice declaration, is understood to take the view that a large part of the EEC's support for the Arab cause in the Middle East conflict is the influence the Community can bring to bear in Washington. He will be visiting the American capital with Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, on February 25.

Dr van der Klauw's soundings will begin in mid-February with a meeting with Mr Cheddi Klibi, the secretary-general of the Arab League, in The Hague. He will then set off for Israel where he is also meant to visit the occupied Arab territories.

Other stops on Dr van der Klauw's tour will be Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Iran, Kuwait, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. He will also visit Washington, and have talks with PLO leaders.

Wall of silence: An investigation into the killing of three Senegalese United Nations soldiers in south Lebanon, not an Arab territory, is being conducted by a United Nations spokesman today (Reuters reports from Tel Aviv).

He said: "This was a cold-blooded murder. They were shot with pistols and not with automatic weapons."

A Fijian soldier wounded in a clash with PLO men on Friday died yesterday.

Soviet fury at Japan's islands claim

From Our Own Correspondent Moscow, Jan 20

The Soviet Foreign Ministry today called in the Japanese Ambassador to protest at Japan's decision to proclaim February 7 the "Day of the Northern Territories," as part of the country's campaign for the return of the South Kurile islands, occupied by the Russians since the end of the Second World War.

In the latest version of Moscow's war of words with Tokyo, the Russians also protested against what they called Japanese propaganda on the territorial issue.

The ambassador was told that this and his Government's plans to include the question of the northern territories in the Japanese school curriculum constituted "unfriendly actions" towards the Soviet Union. They were seen in Moscow as a deliberate attempt to aggravate Soviet-Japanese relations.

A Tass report said the Foreign Ministry warned the ambassador that Japan was undermining the positive results in Soviet-Japanese relations, and the Soviet Union would draw the "appropriate conclusions."

The ministry statement said Japan had to understand that wherever steps it took "artificially to stir up the non-existent territorial issue," the Soviet stand was unchanged. It added, in a dismissive declaration, "it does much to explain why Japanese relations with the Soviet Union are now so bad."

"No territorial issue exists in relations between the Soviet Union and Japan. This has been repeatedly stated by Soviet officials to Japanese leaders."

"The establishment of good neighbourly relations with the Soviet Union, rather than the laying of groundless territorial claims, would in the opinion of the Soviet Union be in the interests of Japan itself and the cause of ensuring security in the Far East and the whole of Asia."

Blood feud fear over Knesset seat

From Moshe Brilliant Tel Aviv, Jan 20

Shaikh Jaber Muadi, a Druse, defied warnings of a blood feud between Beduin and Druse and took his seat in the Knesset (Parliament) this afternoon in place of Shaikh Hamad Abu Rabi, the murdered Beduin leader.

Shaikh Abu Rabi, who was shot dead in Jerusalem last week, had reneged on a pre-election undertaking to vacate his seat in the Knesset in favour of the Druse. Members of the Abu Rabi tribe suspect that this was the motive of the assassination. Three Druse from Yirka, Shaikh Jaber's village in Galilee, were being held by police as suspects.

Israeli officials last week persuaded elders of the Abu Rabi tribe to put off their blood vengeance required by their tradition until police complete their investigation. However, the Bedu elders said their agreement would not hold if Shaikh Jaber takes Shaikh Abu Rabi's Knesset seat.

Both Shaikhs were associated with the Labour Alignment and the party attempted to dissuade Shaikh Jaber from taking his seat at this time. He insisted, however, that yielding would imply an acknowledgement of guilt.

The Knesset Speaker interrupted today's debate to administer the oath of loyalty to the new deputy. Contrary to Knesset tradition, nobody shook Shaikh Jaber's hand as he was guided by an usher to his seat.

Israeli believe the danger of a blood feud between two communities was great.

At the Knesset, Mr Yoram Prime Minister's adviser on minority affairs, visited Abu Rabi elders last week and persuaded them that a vendetta against the Druse would be folly. He said the Druse people had been opposed to the killing of Shaikh Abu Rabi and Shaikh Jaber was, moreover, a controversial figure in the community.

El Salvador attack on guerrillas

El Paisanal, El Salvador, Jan 20

Government forces in El Salvador counter-attacked leftist guerrillas in an attempt to thwart any big onslaught to coincide with Mr Ronald Reagan's inauguration in Washington.

The authorities say the guerrillas, who launched an offensive 10 days ago to topple the country's civilian-military junta, are angered by the renewal of United States military aid to El Salvador.

Official sources say the Army is advancing on the guerrillas' rural strongholds. An underground hideout for 150 people was captured by the Army yesterday near the village of El Paisanal. Fifteen guerrillas and four soldiers were killed—Reuters.

Muhammad Ali talks man out of suicide

Los Angeles, Jan 20

Muhammad Ali, the former world heavyweight boxing champion, pulled a man, apparently intending to commit suicide, from a ledge on the ninth floor of a building last night after talking to him for half an hour, police said.

The boxer went to the building after a friend telephoned him to say that a 21-year-old man, who was not identified, was standing on the ledge and asking to see the former champion—Reuters.

Solidarity officials reject Walesa appeal to work

Gdansk, Jan 20

Mr Lech Walesa, the Polish trade union leader, urged members of his Solidarity organization today not to strike for work-free Saturdays and said he would hold the Government responsible for any further clash over the issue.

Mr Walesa was reporting to the organization's national consultative commission on what he described as four hours of tough talks with Mr Jozef Piskowski, the Prime Minister, in Warsaw last night. Mr Walesa told delegates to act with prudence and avoid confrontation.

It was his first public speech in Poland since he returned yesterday from a six-day visit to Italy and the Vatican. In his address, regional branches of Solidarity drew up plans for strikes on Thursday and Friday to press for a 40-hour, five-day working week.

Mr Walesa, who was criti-

Mr Kim's final appeal

From Jacqueline Reditt Seoul, Jan 20

The South Korean Supreme Court will rule on Friday on an appeal against the death sentence on Mr Kim Dae Jung, the leading South Korean dissident, Mr Kim's lawyers said today.

This will be the former presidential candidate's final appeal before he places his fate in the hands of President Chun Doo Hwan who will have to decide whether the politician, who is 50, will be hanged or not.

Nine months ago, Mr Kim was regarded as a potential future president on the basis of his showing against the late President Park Chung-hee, in the last direct presidential election in 1971. But after the student rioting last May, the military imposed martial law throughout the country and Mr Kim was among the first to be detained. While he was in jail, the authorities accused him of fomenting a civilian uprising in the southern provincial capital of Kwangju.

The court martial found him guilty in September of membership of a communist organization favouring North Korea and of attempting an insurrection.

We must act today in order to preserve tomorrow, President declares

Washington, Jan 20—The text of President Reagan's inaugural address was as follows:

To a few of us here today this is a solemn and most momentous occasion and yet in the history of our nation it is a commonplace occurrence.

The orderly transfer of authority as called for in the Constitution takes place, as it has for almost two centuries, and few of us stop to think how unique we really are. In the eyes of many in the world, this every-four-year ceremony we accept as normal is nothing less than a miracle.

Mr President, I want our fellow-citizens to know how much you did to carry on this tradition. By your gracious cooperation in the transition process you have shown a watching world that we are a united people, pledged to maintaining a political system which guarantees individual liberty to a greater degree than any other. Thank you and your people for all your help in maintaining the continuity which is the hallmark of our republic.

The business of our nation goes forward. These United States are confronted with an economic affliction of great proportions. We suffer from the longest and one of the worst sustained inflations in our national history, which distorts our economic decisions, penalizes thrift and crushes the struggling young and the fixed-income elderly alike. It tends to shatter the lives of millions of our people.

Idle industries have cast workers into unemployment, causing human misery and personal indignity. Those who do work are denied a fair return for their labour by a tax system which penalizes successful achievement and keeps us from maintaining full

productivity. But great as our tax burden is, it has not kept pace with public spending. For decades we have borrowed our way to mortgaging our future and our children's future for the temporary convenience of the present. To the eyes of many in the world, this every-four-year ceremony we accept as normal is nothing less than a miracle.

You and I, as individuals, can, by borrowing, live beyond our means for only a limited period of time. Why should we think that collectively, as a nation, we are not bound by that same limitation?

We must act today in order to preserve tomorrow, and let there be no misunderstanding—we are going to act, beginning today. By your gracious cooperation in the transition process you have shown a watching world that we are a united people, pledged to maintaining a political system which guarantees individual liberty to a greater degree than any other. Thank you and your people for all your help in maintaining the continuity which is the hallmark of our republic.

From time to time we have been tempted to believe that society has become too complex to be managed by self-rule; that government by an elite group is superior to government of, for and by the people. Well, it is no one among us is capable of governing himself, then who among us has the capacity to govern someone else?

All of us together—in and out of government—must bear the burden of our nation. We seek dignity, but no one group singled out to pay a higher price. Our concern must be for a special interest group that has

been too long neglected. It knows no sectional boundaries, crosses ethnic and racial divisions and grows from the hearts of all Americans.

It is made up of men and women who raise our food, patrol our streets, man our mines and factories, teach our children, keep our homes and heal our sick. They are professionals, industrialists, shopkeepers, clerks, cabbies and truck drivers. They are, in short, "we, the people."

Our objective must be a healthy, vigorous, growing economy that provides equal opportunities for all Americans, no barriers borne of bigotry or discrimination. Putting America back to work means putting all Americans back to work.

Ending inflation means freeing all Americans from the terror of runaway living costs. All must share in the productive work of this "new beginning," and all must share in the rewards. We are Americans, have the capacity now, as we have had in the past, to do whatever needs to be done to preserve this last and greatest bastion of freedom.

In this present crisis, government is not the solution, it is the problem. From time to time we have been tempted to believe that society has become too complex to be managed by self-rule; that government by an elite group is superior to government of, for and by the people. Well, it is no one among us is capable of governing himself, then who among us has the capacity to govern someone else?

states—the states created the federal government. So there will be no misunderstanding, this is not a counter—on both sides of that counter. There are entrepreneurs with faith in themselves and an idea who create new jobs, new wealth and opportunity. They are individuals and families whose taxes support the government and whose voluntary gifts support church, charity, culture, art, and education. Their patriotism is quiet but deep. Their values sustain our national life.

I have used the words "they" and "their" in speaking of these heroes. I could say "you" and "your" because I am addressing the heroes of whom I speak—you, the citizens of this blessed land. Your dreams, your hopes, your goals are going to be the dreams, the hopes and goals of this administration, to help me God.

We shall reflect the compassion that is so much a part of your makeup. How can we love our country and not love our countrymen? And loving them, reach out a hand when they fall, heal them when they are sick, and provide opportunity to make them self-sufficient so they will be equal in fact and not just in theory?

Can we solve the problems confronting this nation? Yes, we can. We will solve them with the same unquenchable and emphatic yes. To paraphrase Winston Churchill, I did not take the oath I have just taken with the intention of presiding over the dissolution of the world's strongest economy.

In the days ahead I will propose removing a number of the roadblocks that have slowed our economy and reduced productivity. Steps will be taken aimed at restoring the balance between the various levels of government. Progress will be slow—measured in inches, and feet, not miles—but we will progress. It is time to

reawaken this industrial giant, to get government back within its means, and to lighten our punitive tax burden. There will be our first priorities, and on these principles, there will be no compromise.

In the eyes of our struggle for independence a man who might have been one of the greatest among the founding fathers if he had not given his life on Bunker Hill, Dr Joseph Warren, president of the Massachusetts Congress, said to his fellow Americans: "Our country is in danger, but not to be despaired of... on you depend the fortunes of America. You are to decide the important questions on which rest the happiness and liberty of millions yet unborn. Act worthy of yourselves."

I believe we, the Americans of today, are ready to act worthy of ourselves, ready to do what must be done to ensure happiness and liberty for ourselves, our children, and our children's children. We are ready to give our lives here in our own land, we will be seen as having greater strength through the example of freedom and a beacon of hope for those who do not now have freedom.

To those neighbours and allies who share our ideal of freedom, we will strengthen our historic ties and assure them of our support and firm commitment. We will match loyalty with loyalty. We will strive for mutually beneficial relations. We will not use our friendship to impose on our sovereignty, for our own sovereignty is not for sale.

To the enemies of freedom, to those who are potential adversaries, they will be reminded that peace is the highest aspiration of the American people. We will negotiate for it, sacrifice for it—we will not surrender for it, now or ever.

Our forbearance should never be misunderstood. Our reluctance for conflict should not be misjudged. We are a peaceful people, but we are required to preserve our national security, we will act. We will maintain sufficient strength to prevail, if we do so we have the best chance of not having to use that strength.

Above all, we must realize no weapon in the arsenals of the world is so formidable as the will and moral courage of free men and women. It is a weapon our adversaries in today's world do not have. It is a weapon that we as Americans do have. Let that be understood by those who practice terrorism and prey upon their neighbours.

I am told that tens of thousands of prayer meetings are being held on this day, and for that I am deeply grateful. We live in a nation under God, and I believe God intended for us to be free. It would be fitting, indeed, if each inaugural day should be a day of prayer.

This is the first time in our history that this ceremony has been held on the west front of the Capitol building. Standing here, we face a magnificent vista, opening up on this city's special beauty and history. At the end of this open mall are those shrines to the glories of our nation's past.

Directly in front of me, the monument to a great statesman, George Washington, father of our country. A man of humility who came to office reluctantly. He led America out of revolutionary victory into infant nationhood.

Off to one side, the stately memorial to Thomas Jefferson, the Declaration of Independence flames with his eloquence. And then beyond the reflecting pool, the dignified columns of the Lincoln Memorial. Whoever would

understand in his heart the meaning of America will find it in the life of Abraham Lincoln.

Both thousands of miles to the north and the Potomac River, and on the far shore the sloping hills of Arlington National Cemetery, with its rows of simple white markers with crosses and Stars of David, adding up to only a tiny fraction of the price that has been paid.

Each one of those markers is a monument to the kind of hero who spoke of earlier. Their lives ended in places called Belleau Wood, the Argonne, Omaha Beach, Salerno, and half way round the world, on Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Pork Chop Hill, the Chosin Reservoir, and in a hundred rice paddies and jungles of a place called Vietnam.

Under such a marker lies a young man—Martin Trepow—who left his life in a small town barber shop in 1917 to go to France with the famed Rainbow Division. There, on the Western Front, he was killed. He was only 21. He carried a message between battalions under heavy artillery fire.

He was found a diary. On his final entry under the heading, "My pledge," he had written these words: "Therefore I will work, I will save, I will sacrifice, I will endure, I will fight cheerfully and to the utmost, as if the issue of the whole struggle depended on me alone."

The crisis we are facing today does not require the kind of sacrifice that Martin Trepow and so many thousands of others called upon to make. It does, however, require our best effort, our work, and our willingness to believe in ourselves and in our capacity to perform great deeds. That, together, and with God's help, we can and will resolve the problems which confront us.

Why shouldn't we believe that? After all—we are Americans.

IRAN HOSTAGES

Embassy elation turns to apprehension as delay follows delay

From Ian Murray
Algiers, Jan 20

Throughout a long, nail-biting day officials at the American Embassy battled to keep smiling as the frustrating details of the long series of delays came through from Iran.

After the elation of yesterday, when Mr Warren Christopher, the Deputy Secretary of State, signed the agreements which were meant to bring about the release of the hostages, the mood slowly changed to apprehension.

After a relaxed afternoon yesterday Mr Christopher had been told of difficulties being raised over the financial arrangements and immediately called a meeting of experts.

Among those called to the embassy was Mr Kit McMahon, the Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, the central bank approved by both Iran and America to hold freed Iranian assets while the hostages were being released.

The experts worked in the details throughout the evening and into the early morning and it was not until 3 am that Mr McMahon left the American Embassy for his bed at the British Residence.

Mr Christopher snatched three hours sleep and left shortly before 9 am in the big cream embassy car for the Foreign Ministry and a long session with Mr Muhammad Benyahia, the Algerian Foreign Minister.

In worried that any leak of information might upset the release of the hostages, none of the Algerian, American or British experts were prepared to say anything.

The Algerians grew increasingly worried. For the people of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria the

central role of their diplomats and ministers has become a matter of great national pride. The newspapers, *El Moudjahid*, leads proudly today on the news of the agreement with Carter renders homage to Algeria.

People in the street stopped journalists, wearing the special pass issued by the Ministry of Information, and asked for the latest news. "It is a great moment for our country," they say. "We are so proud and happy that they are coming home."

There is further pleasure in the fact that Algerian doctors were in charge of checking the condition of the hostages and that the hostages were due to be flown out of Tehran on a large red and white Air Algérie Boeing 727.

There has been growing concern from people making inquiries. "We do hope nothing is going wrong," they say. "Do tell us they will still be coming home."

At the American Embassy the one person oozing confidence and good humour has been Mrs Yolande Haines, the Ambassador's wife, a Haitian and former Paris fashion model. She runs the cash desk in the embassy canteen adjoining the courtyard at the front of the building. There she makes out the chits for the hostages and the coffee consumed by the press corps and embassy staff in growing quantities.

At the airport the domestic arrival area allocated to receive the hostages, has been blocked off with railings for the past two days, with only a handful of television and radio technicians allowed through.

Britain sends two more diplomats to Tehran

By David Spanier
Diplomatic Correspondent

Two Diplomats have flown out from London to Tehran to strengthen the British interests section of the Swedish Embassy there, the Foreign Office announced yesterday.

The British complement is now four: Mr Edmund Barratt, a First Secretary, who has been in Tehran throughout the recent crisis, joined by Mr David Brett, an Administrative Officer in November, and now Mr Christopher Rundle, a First Secretary, and Mr Robert Mansfield, a Third Secretary, who was in the British Embassy before it was shut down last September.

The reason for increasing the size of the British interests section, the Foreign Office said, was "to cope with Britain's residual responsibilities in Iran".

It was emphasized yesterday that the decision to send out the two diplomats was not connected with the release of the American hostages, or with the four British citizens in detention. Naturally the freeing of

the four Britons remains their first priority.

On his return to London from Brussels last night, Lord Carrington said that if economic sanctions were removed, there would be much more for British diplomats to do in Tehran. The increase in British representation was also designed to help the four detainees.

He very much hoped that after the expression of support of the European Community, the Iranians would appreciate the strength of European feeling on the matter, and release the British detainees, whom they knew to be innocent.

However, the arrival of the diplomats is far from signalling a return to "full friendship" with Iran, or even normal relations.

The British Embassy is shut, and is likely to remain so while the four Britons are held without charges or consular rights. But the risk of British diplomats being seized as seemed quite possible at one time, is now judged to have receded.

EEC to lift sanctions imposed last May

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, Jan 20

EEC Foreign Ministers today welcomed the "release safe and sound" of the American hostages and said that the trade and economic sanctions imposed by the Community on Iran last May were "no longer called for".

In a separate statement, at the request of Lord Carrington, the British Foreign Secretary, the ministers also said they were looking to the Iranian authorities to accelerate the release of the three British missionaries and a businessman held without charge.

Lord Carrington has made it clear that he regards the problem of the British detainees as being separate from that posed by the American hostages, to whose fate the trade sanctions were specifically related.

Arms sales to Iran are regarded by the EEC as coming in a different category from general trade, and member-states will decide individually what to do. In Britain's case any Iranian requests for arms or spare parts will be considered on their merits, but it is most likely that they would be met so long as the four British citizens are held and the war between Iran and Iraq continues.

The trade sanctions against Iran never had much more than symbolic effect since they applied only to export contracts concluded after November 4, 1979—the day when the hostages were seized. Even that limited degree of retroactive application was rejected on by Britain because of a revolt by the House of Commons.

The sanctions thus conveniently left untouched the bulk of current trade with Iran, which in any case had fallen to a low level because of the disruption caused by the Iranian revolution. Despite sanctions British trade with Iran in the first 11 months of 1980 was in fact 70 per cent higher at £368m than in the same period of 1979.

Aside from lifting trade sanctions, the Community will also restore normal diplomatic relations and the requirement introduced for Iranians wishing to visit EEC countries will also be withdrawn.

The ministers said that they had always fully respected the independence of Iran and the right of its people to determine their own future.



A yellow ribbon being tied round an old oak tree outside an American hospital in Wiesbaden, as urged by the old soldiers' song, to show the returning hostages that their girls still loved them.

Family liaison group keeps spirits high

Washington, Jan 20.

Founded as a self-help group for families of the American hostages in Iran, the Family Liaison Action Group (FLAG) has developed into a corporation with offices in Washington, a board of directors, a newsletter and a sizeable bank account.

"Having this organization creates the emotional bond that all families share with each other," Mrs Louise Kennedy, who helped to found the organization last March, said. "It made it easier to keep your chin up."

FLAG's purpose is to help the families of the 52 American hostages to keep them informed of recent developments, to help them to deal with the news media, to answer their questions and keep them abreast of hostage ceremonies and events.

The office receives 80 calls a day from civic groups and institutions that want to do something to help. Since last summer the organization has raised more than \$150,000 (more than £65,000) from donors.—AP.

Retaliation by Washington caused hardship for ayatollah's enemies

Washington, Jan 20.—Ameri-

can retaliation for the seizure of the embassy staff in Tehran brought hardship for many of the 250,000 Iranians living in the United States.

Yet there were few instances of violence. There was a torrent of angry words on radio talk shows, which have become America's safety valve. There was some ridicule of all things Iranian.

By and large, the 250,000 Iranians in the United States lived in peace. Even the few thousand who used the streets of America to vent their political rage against America were able to march in peace, if sometimes with heavy police protection.

Still, many Iranians here were affected by American actions, and some feel those actions have left a legacy of bitterness.

President Carter took action specifically intended to affect the estimated 70,000 Iranians who were in the United States on student visas. He ordered them to report to the Immi-

gration and Naturalization Service for visa checks to see if they were in the country legally.

Civil liberty groups contend that there was no legal one nationality, but the Supreme Court upheld the President's action.

"It is not only a violation of civil liberties, but ludicrous," Mr Joseph Rauh, a veteran civil liberties lawyer, said at the time. "If it would bring one hostage home one minute sooner, one might consider it. But it won't bring one hostage home. You don't answer the outrages of the ayatollah (Khomeini) by mistreating people in your own country."

President Carter's second act was to invalidate all visas issued to Iranians for entry into the United States. Those here would not leave and come back, separated families could not be reunited in this country.

The consequence, says Mr David Carliner, an immigration lawyer, was hardship for hundreds of pro-American Iranian businessmen, professionals and government officials who, even before the Shah was overthrown, had fled to the United States.

An Iranian who wanted to go home to see his dying father, Mr Carliner said, was told it would take 45 days before he could leave if he wanted advance permission to return.

Five Iranians who were University of Idaho students on a field trip to Canada on the day President Carter acted were denied readmission to the United States.

Mr Carliner, who acts for the American Civil Liberties Union, is a member of the national advisory council of Amnesty International and author of *Rights of Aliens*, said the United States failed to distinguish between Iranian critics and supporters of Ayatollah Khomeini.

This policy, he said, resulted in "harsh feelings towards the United States on the part of people who are going to become the business leaders, professionals and government leaders in their own country one day."

—AP.

City lawyers overcome final hitch on assets

By Roman Eisenstein
Banking Correspondent

The final hitch over the American hostages was resolved yesterday thanks to the activity of a firm of City solicitors acting for Bank Markazi, the Iranian central bank.

The firm, Stephenson Harwood, had been acting for the Iranians over the matter of blocked Iranian funds in subsidiaries of American banks in London, put forward fresh proposals on how to calculate interest on Iranian deposits.

A statement from the solicitors issued last night said that Stephenson Harwood's involvement in this matter arose after the Carter freeze in 1979. It acted for several Iranian banking clients including Bank Markazi over the legal issues arising from the freeze of Iranian deposits.

This, says the firm, "caused serious indeed unprecedented legal and banking problems for the City of London and the international financial community. The firm is very pleased that together with the other advisers concerned including several firms in the City its work over the past days and nights has contributed to the settlement now reached."

One of the main firms of solicitors acting for the Americans is Coward Chance, another City firm. Stephenson Harwood is one of the largest firms of solicitors in the City.

Meanwhile, another part of the complex financial operation went smoothly yesterday. The Bank of England confirmed that billions of dollars of frozen Iranian assets had been transferred by the United States into an Algerian escrow account to be held on behalf of the Iranians. The funds were to be transferred in an Iranian account as soon as the hostages had been released.

Thatcher hope for Britons

Mrs Thatcher told the House of Commons she hoped the release of the hostages "will allow well for release of our own people".

She said the Government continually tried to secure access to British subjects—held in Iran for five months—"without any charge against them".



Final hurdle: Mr Carter, in almost his last act as President, signs the document that finally secured freedom for the hostages.

Sterling rise anticipates move of unfrozen funds

By Francis Williams

The pound followed Monday's rapid ascent against the dollar with further gains yesterday, amid speculation that part of Iran's unfrozen dollar assets will be diversified into sterling. In fairly quiet trading the rose 1.25 cents to close at \$2.4195, after touching \$2.4250 early in the day.

Its effective exchange rate index, measured against a basket of currencies, ended the day at 80.2—matching the five-year peak reached in the first week of November.

The dollar was fairly steady against continental currencies but weakened against the yen, another currency thought likely to benefit from diversification of Iran's dollar holdings.

The overall steadiness of the dollar reflects market views that Iran is unlikely to diversify out of dollars on a large scale. It is seen as needing dollars to engage in international trade and to repay its debts. In addition, high dollar interest rates make holding the American currency attractive.

Your chance to give the Royal Navy a hard time.

Aberdeen University, Monday 9 February
Aberystwyth University College, Wednesday 4 March
Aston University, Thursday 22 January
Bangor University College, Tuesday 3 March
Bath University, Monday 2 March
Birmingham University, Thursday 12 February
Birmingham Polytechnic, Wednesday 21 January
Bolton Institute of Technology, Thursday 29 January
Bradford University, Thursday 5 February
Brighton Polytechnic, Wednesday 4 February
Bristol University, Friday 27 February
Bristol Polytechnic, Thursday 26 February
Cambridge University, Tuesday 17 February
Cambridge College of Art and Technology, Wednesday 18 February
Cardiff University College, Thursday 5 February
Cranfield Institute of Technology, Thursday 29 January
Dorset Institute of Higher Education, Thursday 5 February

Dundee University, Wednesday 11 February
Dundee College of Technology, Wednesday 11 February
Durham University, Tuesday 24 February
East Anglia University, Thursday 12 February
Edinburgh University, Thursday 5 February
Exeter University, Wednesday 18 February
Exeter University, Wednesday 25 February
Glasgow University, Friday 6 February
Glasgow College of Technology, Thursday 5 February
Hatfield Polytechnic, Monday 9 February
Heriot-Watt University, Monday 2 February
Huddersfield Polytechnic, Wednesday 28 January
Hull University, Wednesday 18 February
Keele University, Tuesday 27 January
Kent University, Thursday 19 February
Kingston Polytechnic, Thursday 5 March
Lampeter University College, Thursday 5 March
Lancaster University, Tuesday 20 January

Lancaster Polytechnic, Tuesday 20 January
Leeds University, Friday 30 January
Leeds Polytechnic, Thursday 29 January
Leicester University, Monday 26 January
Leicester Polytechnic, Tuesday 27 January
Liverpool University, Thursday 22 January
Liverpool Polytechnic, Wednesday 21 January
London University, Friday 20 February
London University College, Friday 6 March
City of London University, Thursday 19 February
Brunel University, W. London, Tuesday 10 February
Imperial College, London, Monday 9 March
Queen Mary College, London, Tuesday 3 March
Central London Polytechnic, Monday 2 March
City of London Polytechnic, Monday 16 February
North London Polytechnic, Tuesday 10 March
North East London Polytechnic, Tuesday 24 February
South Bank Polytechnic, London, Thursday 5 March
Thames Polytechnic, London, Monday 9 February
Loughborough University, Wednesday 25 February
Manchester University, Wednesday 28 January
Manchester Polytechnic, Tuesday 27 January
Middlesex Polytechnic, Tuesday 10 February
Newcastle upon Tyne University, Tuesday 17 February
Newcastle upon Tyne Polytechnic, Wednesday 18 February
North Staffordshire Polytechnic, Monday 19 January
Nottingham University, Thursday 26 February
Oxford University, Wednesday 28 January
Oxford Polytechnic, Thursday 29 January
Paisley College of Technology, Thursday 5 February
Plymouth Polytechnic, Thursday 26 February
Portsmouth Polytechnic, Thursday 19 February
Preston Polytechnic, Wednesday 21 January
Reading University, Wednesday 25 February
Robert Gordon's Institute of Technology, Tuesday 10 February
Salford University, Thursday 29 January
Sheffield University, Wednesday 4 February
Sheffield Polytechnic, Tuesday 3 February
Southampton University, Monday 26 January
St Andrews University, Tuesday 3 February
Stirling University, Thursday 12 February
Strathclyde University, Wednesday 4 February
Sunderland Polytechnic, Wednesday 25 February
Surrey University, Wednesday 4 March
Sussex University, Monday 2 February
Swansea University College, Tuesday 3 February
Teesside Polytechnic, Thursday 19 February
Trent Polytechnic, Friday 27 February
Wales Polytechnic, Wednesday 4 February
Warwick University, Wednesday 21 January
Wolverhampton Polytechnic, Tuesday 20 January
York University, Tuesday 17 February

On the date shown above a Royal Navy Officer will come and visit your university or polytechnic.

He will be there to describe at first hand what he thinks the Navy can offer you.

You will get his impressions of life as a Pilot, an Observer, an Engineer, a Seaman Officer, a Royal Marines Officer, a Supply and Secretariat Officer, a Submariner, an Instructor Officer or a WRNS Officer in the Royal Navy.

And perhaps a few humorous tales of shore leave in the world's ports.

You will probably have one or two questions, and our Officer will do his level best to answer them. If he can't he will find out and let you know.

Be as tough on him with your questions as you like. The more you know about the Navy the better you can make up your mind about it.

To fix a time for a down-to-earth chat, check with your Careers Adviser, or write to Cdr J. Exworthy RN, Officer Entry Section (9CC1), Old Admiralty Building, Spring Gardens, London SW1A 2BE. **ROYAL NAVY OFFICER**



PARLIAMENT, January 20, 1981

Some defence items deferred: plans must fit resources

Expenditure will rise by 3% a year from revised base

House of Commons

Next year's defence budget is expected to be about £12,200m, more than £1,000m higher than this year's budget, Mr John Nott, Secretary of State for Defence, said in a statement on defence expenditure.

Mr Nott said that the Government's policy was to give the highest priority to defence in the face of the growing threat from the Warsaw Pact countries. He said that the Government's policy was to give the highest priority to defence in the face of the growing threat from the Warsaw Pact countries.

So far as this year is concerned we are likely to exceed the 3 per cent limit but until the autumn it is clear we cannot assess the situation in real terms.

The scale of the increase, in relation to the commitment of expenditure on other programmes, will be determined by the Government's determination to give the highest priority to our defence.

In accordance with these objectives, we can confirm that next year's major defence programmes will continue.

Contrary to some reports, however, the new Challenger tank, the new armoured personnel carrier, the Milan anti-tank missile, the Hawk fighter, the Sea King helicopter, the new warship orders, including anti-submarine carriers, nuclear-powered submarines, destroyers and frigates, together with major maritime weapon systems such as Stingray and Sub-Harpoon, will be carried out.

Air tickets: Minister would like evidence

House of Lords
Lord Trefgarne, Under Secretary of State for Trade, said that if he were given evidence about the "bucket shops" which sell foreign exchange at inflated prices, he would like to see it.

Earlier, during questions on discount rates, Lord Trefgarne said that he did not dispute that there are some agents and sub-agents, presumably in collusion with bucket shops, who are selling some tickets at prices below the officially approved level or are in breach of the conditions of the contract.

Does he suggest the "bucket shops" contact these various governments before they sell the tickets?

The tickets are sold at a discount of up to 60 per cent. I have a bucket shop guide which gives names of bucket shops.

Lord Trefgarne: What I said was not rubbish. International fares are agreed between governments.

Authority given to airlines of every country to operate their services is conditional upon their adhering to the terms of the permits issued, and one of these is the fare to be charged.

This matter was one of the first which came to me when I took up my new post a week or so ago, and I propose to pursue it with the airlines.

Lord Northfield (Lab): As one who buys bucket shop tickets at the nice fares quoted, I would like to know the difficulties for the Government in dealing with this.

It is the case that, pending some international agreement on lower fares, the Government is happily accepting the bucket shop prices, by allowing "bucket shops" to sell at these prices?

Mr Brynmor Jones, chief Opposition spokesman on defence (Pentagon, Lab) questioning Mr Nott on his statement, said: "I welcome the statement which, contrary to the election pledges of the Government, is a tiny recognition of the reality that defence is bound up with the economy and cannot hope to be insulated from the disastrous performance of the economy under the present Government."

What is the total saving he envisages in financial terms when taking account of the equipment which will be replaced by the employment consequences of the cancellation of certain projects?

On what basis have the cuts been single out from the rest of the programme? Who are the employment consequences of the cancellation of certain projects?

It is likely that the Ministry of Defence will have an overspend this year. We do not know the figure yet.

We have to wait the outcome of the election before we can take them. This announcement basically concerns itself with the quicker phasing out of earlier equipment.

The former Secretary of State, Mr Pym, had left him some useful work to do. He was able to choose from a range of options he had considered with great care, in conjunction with the Chiefs of Staff.

We have done our best to present a balanced picture, and we have done our best to present a balanced picture, and we have done our best to present a balanced picture.

Mr Nott, facing his first question time as Secretary of State for Defence, said he intended to keep the Trident project under close review.

Mr Nott (St. Ives, Con) said his first questioner, Mr. Robert (Cannock, Lab) that Britain's nuclear forces, including Trident, absorbed, or would absorb, only a small proportion of the defence budget.

Mr Roberts: Whatever argument there may be for conventional weapons, there can be no argument for Trident, or for any other nuclear weapons.

Mr Nott: The strategic nuclear deterrent is essential to the defence of the Nato alliance and our liberty.

Mr David Trippier (Rossendale, C): The planned long range nuclear forces of Cruise missiles and Pershing are not primarily designed to cater for the bolt from the blue nuclear attack.

The exceptional readiness of the strategic nuclear force vested in Polaris and later on in Trident would be lost if we were to rely on a small number of cruise missiles.

Mr Nott: I wholly agree. Trident is the most cost-effective way to provide the new and necessary capability for a viable strategic nuclear deterrent. It should be seen as an integral part of our defence system and not an addition to it.

Mr Alan Bates (Sewick-upon-Tweed, L): Our welcome to a new Secretary of State in his new office will depend on whether he keeps to his promise to keep Trident under close review.

We cannot afford Trident without impairing the strength of BAOR or our naval commitment to Nato.

Mr Geoffrey Raine, Under Secretary of Defence for the RAF (Chertsey and Walton, C): The total production cost to the United Kingdom of an order for 220 production GR Mark 1s, and 155 production F Mark 2s, is now estimated to be £4,870m at September 1980 price levels.

At constant price levels, the real production costs of the GR Mark 1 since the start of full development in May 1979 is about 15 per cent, and of the F Mark 2, which entered full development in July 1976, about 6 per cent.

Mr Hooley: Reports from Germany seem to indicate that the cost of this machine is getting out of control.

It is quite absurd to suppose that the economy of the United Kingdom can carry Trident, Trident, BAOR, protection of the North Atlantic, and protection of the air.

Mr Patten: It is interesting to note that the last time this question was asked by Mr Frank Allam (Salisbury, East, Lab), the figures were 22 per cent, and 10 per cent respectively.

That was more than two years ago, and the cost of the machine is getting out of control.

Mr Giles Shaw, Under Secretary for Environment said in a written reply that Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, had made a statement in the House on the way ahead for inner city policy.

Although he would look at this again—there might be an intermediate stage—his doubts had been much reduced by the experience of the past few weeks.

The assumption appears to be made too readily (he continued) that the courts are the only way to deal with the problem of the courts.

carrying out the wider range of tasks of the Nato alliance.

Mr Nott: By the end of next year, the defence expenditure will have risen about 3 per cent in real terms from the Government took office, which the experts committed to the party at the last election.

The reduction of £200m announced by the Chancellor is made in the planned defence budget.

Of course, some adjustments will be made on the planned programme. There always are.

The employment consequences of the measures announced will be that some of the jobs which would otherwise have been created by additional planned expenditure will not now be created, but if I understand his party's defence policy, it is to have a smaller force.

What are the employment implications of the slow down in warship building? Will it be a net loss of jobs, or so that that will be a net loss of jobs?

What are the employment implications of the slow down in warship building? Will it be a net loss of jobs, or so that that will be a net loss of jobs?

On the shipbuilding side, we must discuss with British Shipbuilders how next year's programme will be affected.

We can then make a firm estimate of the jobs affected, but our defence bill will have increased by 3 per cent.

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has not been put there as a hatchet man on defence expenditure?

Mr Nott: I cannot imagine how anybody could ever see me as such a hatchet man. I shall be just as dedicated to preserving and improving the front line capability of our forces as Mr Pym was. The task he performed when he was in my office was a tremendous one.

Mr Julian Amery (Brighton, Pavilion, C): This is the first time that the Treasury team has managed to out the defence minister. While we wish him the best of luck, it is up to him to convince the Conservative Party, the House and the country that his appointment does not mean a serious encroachment in defence expenditure.

Mr Nott: I have not been a member of any Treasury team, if that is what you mean. I was a distinguished member of the Board of Trade. (Laughter.) I shall be in charge of the Ministry of Defence and not the Treasury.

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Mr Foot's request to PM on 'The Times'

Mr Michael Foot, leader of the Opposition, sought an undertaking from the Prime Minister at question time that if Mr. Rupert Murdoch acquired The Times and Sunday Times she would immediately refer the matter to the Monopolies Commission.

Mr Foot (Ebbw Vale, Lab) said: In view of the strong rumours that The Times and Sunday Times may be sold to Rupert Murdoch, I would like to ask the Prime Minister to give an undertaking that if this were to occur she would immediately refer the matter to the Monopolies Commission.

Would she also undertake that she would ask them to report with extreme urgency in view of the fact that the newspapers and their possible extinction in March?

Mr Margaret Thatcher (Barnet, Finchley, C): The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry has received no application for consent to transfer any of The Times newspapers.

If he does receive such an application, he will have to consider the newspaper merger provisions of the Fair Trading Act of 1973.

BAOR mans 560 tanks

The initial reaction of European Ministers of Defence showed that Operation Crusader was an outstanding success. Mr Philip Goodhart, Under Secretary of Defence, said that the British Army, said during exchanges on the operational readiness of United Kingdom forces stationed on the German Rhine.

Mr Goodhart (Bromley, Beckenham, C): I am confident that British Forces Germany are fully capable of making their major contribution to the implementation of Nato strategy.

Mr Nicholas Winterbottom (Macclesfield, C): Many Conservative MPs feel that the readiness of our troops in BAOR is totally inadequate, both in respect of personnel and equipment.

A number of us have received complaints that our troops in BAOR are inadequately provided with ammunition and spares for their equipment.

Mr Goodhart: During the past year the strength of BAOR has increased by 1,000 troops and 500 tanks, and proved a major contribution to the strength of the British Army in Germany.

She said the Government was continually trying to secure access to the British subjects who had been detained in Iran.

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Trident the most cost-effective deterrent

Mr John Nott, facing his first question time as Secretary of State for Defence, said he intended to keep the Trident project under close review.

Mr Nott (St. Ives, Con) said his first questioner, Mr. Robert (Cannock, Lab) that Britain's nuclear forces, including Trident, absorbed, or would absorb, only a small proportion of the defence budget.

Mr Roberts: Whatever argument there may be for conventional weapons, there can be no argument for Trident, or for any other nuclear weapons.

Mr Nott: The strategic nuclear deterrent is essential to the defence of the Nato alliance and our liberty.

Mr David Trippier (Rossendale, C): The planned long range nuclear forces of Cruise missiles and Pershing are not primarily designed to cater for the bolt from the blue nuclear attack.

The exceptional readiness of the strategic nuclear force vested in Polaris and later on in Trident would be lost if we were to rely on a small number of cruise missiles.

Mr Nott: I wholly agree. Trident is the most cost-effective way to provide the new and necessary capability for a viable strategic nuclear deterrent. It should be seen as an integral part of our defence system and not an addition to it.

Mr Alan Bates (Sewick-upon-Tweed, L): Our welcome to a new Secretary of State in his new office will depend on whether he keeps to his promise to keep Trident under close review.

We cannot afford Trident without impairing the strength of BAOR or our naval commitment to Nato.

Mr Geoffrey Raine, Under Secretary of Defence for the RAF (Chertsey and Walton, C): The total production cost to the United Kingdom of an order for 220 production GR Mark 1s, and 155 production F Mark 2s, is now estimated to be £4,870m at September 1980 price levels.

At constant price levels, the real production costs of the GR Mark 1 since the start of full development in May 1979 is about 15 per cent, and of the F Mark 2, which entered full development in July 1976, about 6 per cent.

Mr Hooley: Reports from Germany seem to indicate that the cost of this machine is getting out of control.

It is quite absurd to suppose that the economy of the United Kingdom can carry Trident, Trident, BAOR, protection of the North Atlantic, and protection of the air.

Mr Patten: It is interesting to note that the last time this question was asked by Mr Frank Allam (Salisbury, East, Lab), the figures were 22 per cent, and 10 per cent respectively.

That was more than two years ago, and the cost of the machine is getting out of control.

Mr Giles Shaw, Under Secretary for Environment said in a written reply that Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, had made a statement in the House on the way ahead for inner city policy.

Although he would look at this again—there might be an intermediate stage—his doubts had been much reduced by the experience of the past few weeks.

The assumption appears to be made too readily (he continued) that the courts are the only way to deal with the problem of the courts.

Lord Wigoder (L) moved an amendment to leave out a part of the Bill which would bar the press from reporting on the trial of a person charged with a crime.

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Change in fire-fighting water charges

The task of preserving Britain's inland waterway system was both onerous and costly, Mr Giles Shaw, Under Secretary for Environment, said, moving the second reading of the Water Bill.

Mr Shaw (Pudsey, C) said the Bill increased the borrowing powers of the British Waterways Board from £100m to £150m. It also provided that statutory water undertakers should not levy charges for making water available to the Board.

It removed the power of statutory water undertakers to require separate water service pipes to be laid to the waterworks for all new houses.

Any charge on water for fire-fighting would be regarded as a burden on public safety. The Government was publicly concerned that there should be no such impediment to the water supply.

It had been estimated that the proposal would mean adding 1 per cent to the cost of domestic water supply.

Mr Douglas Hogg (Grantham, C) said the Bill was a convenient vehicle for introducing a long desired piece of law reform. Statutory water undertakers should be liable for damage caused by the escape of water provided there was a connection between the escape and the damage.

The Bill was read a second time. House adjourned, 10.21 pm.

Stop knocking' design of new vessels

There was a good export potential for the offshore protection vessels which were under construction and people who were under construction and people who were under construction.

Mr Stephen Ross (Isle of Wight, L) asked if the Ministry was still satisfied that the offshore protection vessels already in service and under construction provided the best value for money for the task.

Mr Ross: If he is looking for savings that is one area. There are savings that can be made by using aircraft and ships already under construction.

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Police must obey law on contempt no less than editors—Lord Chancellor

The police must remember that they must obey the law no less than editors, Lord Hailsham of St. Marylebone, Lord Chancellor, said during the resumed committee stage of the Contempt of Court Bill.

If editors were provoked by policemen to break the law he knew who was most to blame.

Lord Gardiner, for the Opposition, had moved an amendment to make the "strict liability rule" (whereby conduct tending to interfere with the course of justice may be treated as contempt of court regardless of intent) apply from the date of the coming into force of the Bill, the time of arrest or issue of a warrant.

Lord Hailsham of St. Marylebone said the case of Mr Peter Sutcliffe was precisely the point at which the Government's amendment would be tested.

Lord Gardiner failed to notice what had happened in the past few weeks.

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Number of firms closing and opening

Mr Reginald Byre, Under Secretary for Trade, in a written reply, said: For the year 1980, provisional figures for England and Wales show 6,876 company liquidations (compulsory plus creditors' voluntary) and 4,000 partnerships.

The number of new companies registered in 1980 in England and Wales was 66,104. New sole traders and partnerships registered numbered 144,504 but as they only have to register if they intend to use names other than their own.

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THE ARTS

Stifling a Technicolor yawn

Play for Today
BBC1

Michael Church

Brush with Mr Porter on the road to El Dorado was not half bad. It was, alas, almost wholly bad. What was it? A black comedy, said the advance publicity, and this was indeed true as far as the central character, a middle-aged, middle-class, middle-minded man, is concerned. But I think the advance publicity must have been misled by the word "black" after a great deal of head-scratching as to what it was all about. Comic this play certainly aspired to be, and occasionally was, as when Nigel Hawthorne's Yes Ministered his way through a nicely observed scene as a moustachioed executive.

We got some limply narrated comedy. Weaker with the owners of the mouth turned up, it is three moderately personable young things opened a new restaurant. We got whole loads of slapstick, as the restaurant was invaded by grotesque guests. We leaped the boundaries of naturalism to witness an improving moral tale. We were treated to some barbed parody, with television commenting as its target. We

George Coleman
Ronnie Scott's

Richard Williams

Richard taken for granted as one of the many capable tenor saxophonists who fell under the inescapable influence of John Coltrane during the sixties, Coleman has lately emerged from an unusually prolonged and gradual maturation to achieve acclaim as the most completely equipped improviser of his time.

Coleman's originality resides in his application of Coltrane's technical innovations to earlier materials. He has the bebop's relish for harmonic challenges, and a notable predilection for outrageously fast tempos: "Tune Up", which opened his first set on Monday night, was taken at a bracing tempo, over which Coleman addressed himself to double-time runs incorporating passages of circular breathing, investigation of extremes of register, and rhythmically charged honks of varying density.

His fondness for such effects sometimes got in the way of his usually impeccable sense of continuity (his solo on John's

Guadagnini Quartet
Wigmore Hall

Joan Chissell

Ever since 1959, with help in recent years from private sponsors, the Incorporated Society of Musicians has come to the rescue of talented youth in need of a launching platform. Monday night's final recital of the present series, financially underwritten by that generous RCM benefactor, Peter Morrison, was shared by a string quartet and a solo pianist both trained at the RCM.

The pianist, Peter Bradley, impressed first and foremost with the strength and breadth of his style. The Chopin he presented in the G minor Ballade was no wan consumptive, but a bard as muscular as ardent. At times, in fact, a little more delicacy of sonority would have been welcome. And, just as in the second subject melody we could have done without reminders of the old-time custom of seeking extra expression by separating the hands, so in the fiery coda, begun with terrific panache, it seemed slightly cheating to lessen hazards by means of rubato.

In Book II of Brahms's Paganini Variations Mr Bradley was frequently too elastic for this rock-like composer, now and again lessening the work's brilliance by leisurely choice of tempo (though not in the darddevil No 11). Yet here again the spaciousness of his conception, and the weight and warmth of tone he could command in support, were quite exceptional. So was his crystalline brilliance and rhythmic incisiveness in Falla's "Andalusia", with a winning touch of nostalgia at the end.

The Guadagnini String Quartet, now almost five years old, made their bid in only one work, Bartok's Second Quartet. As the recital was short, it was a pity they did not include some brief classical test too. But their full-bodied sonority, and still more the warmth and intensity of their commitment, were valuable assets throughout Bartok's ride of cover.

Perhaps some of the first movement texture could have been more ethereal. Certainly the central Allegro molto needed a still more pungent spiciness. But the outer tempo change of the final movement, no less than the middle movement's capricious, always found them as one ensemble. In sum, a worthwhile evening.

Donald Sinden in
Coward play

Donald Sinden will play Garry Essendine in Coward's *Present Laughter*, which opens at the Greenwich Theatre on January 29. Others in the cast will be Dinah Sheridan and Gwen Watford.

were sent away with vague intimations of global satire: capitalist greed the great corrupter.

Must comedy have a colour? This one, based on Gargantuan eating and equally Gargantuan excreting, could for once apply to Dame Edna, as a Technicolor yawn.

But the yawn resulted less from the fact that none of these styles was in itself satisfactory. The personable young things were neither lovable nor interesting, so we could not sympathize with their desperate efforts to succeed (as we can, for example, with Mr and Mrs Fawcett). Their guests came on with red noses, squeakers, banana skins, stink bombs—all the paraphernalia of the panto-mime. The gags were of the crudest sitcom variety, the whimsy began by being forced and ended up being hysterical. Considerable artistry lies behind the creation of successful comic stereotypes, finesse behind farce.

The sad thing is that we know the author can do it. Don Haworth has deservedly won prizes for his light and witty touch as a radio dramatist, and he has a sensitive ear. Was he subconsciously still writing for radio? At times the dialogue had that telltale, strained quality, as though all had to be achieved through the words. Let us hope he tries again.

"Meditation" for instance, was delivered in rather distracted episodes, but his final exploration of a rapid bopish blues was unanswerably majestic.

In addition to the well-known virtues of his bassist, Herbie Lewis and his drummer, Billy Higgins, Coleman's group all features the outstanding young pianist Hilton Ruiz, whose seemingly complete command of all jazz idioms is enlivened by a sizzling infusion of the keyboard technique of Bud Powell. Ruiz's salsa music. Such syncopations were particularly apt in the bossa nova, where Higgins rose to the challenge with lightly dancing figures, and in the blues, which found the pianist improvising several choruses of the parallel single-note lines, couple of octaves apart, so characteristic of *salsa*. His long cadenza on "Soul Eyes" was a brilliant combination of power and logic.

Sharing the present season is the singer Elaine Delmar, who delivered her ballads on Monday with more discretion and authority than I have ever heard from her. Brashness marred the up-tempo songs, but to take "Tea for Two" at a dead-slow tempo was a winning stroke of the imagination. A lovely "He Was Too Good to Me", with accompaniment limited to Pat Smythe's sensitive piano, was simply entrancing.

Misfortune dogs first night of singularly unlucky revival

Un ballo in maschera
Covent Garden

William Mann

This revival of Otto Schenk's production, the first for four years, has been plagued with misfortune. When the series of performances began last Thursday, Luciano Pavarotti was on compassionate leave at home in Italy; the Ankerstroom, Renato Bruson, himself laid low with a virus infection, had to ask for a substitute as well, though he intends to sing from tomorrow onwards. By Monday, when my colleagues and I were invited to review the revival, Pavarotti had arrived, we were able to greet Matteo Manuguerra, on his debut in the Royal Opera House (his sterling baritone is already familiar from records), and there too, were Montserrat Caballé as Amelia and Bernard Haitink as conductor.

The misfortunes were not yet ended. The first two scenes went well, Pavarotti slimmer, indeed well proportioned, honeyed of vocal line and

Fallen idol: Thomas Carlyle

On February 4 1831, died Thomas Carlyle, whom Sir Leslie Stephen describes as "the acknowledged head of English literature" in his time. I think that that was generally agreed to be so, but it is very difficult for us to understand why today. An eminent Victorian, Sir Charles Oman, told me that we could not imagine in our time upon what pedestals the Victorians put their great writers. None of them has been more completely toppled than the one they thought the greatest.

We can all find reasons for not appreciating or even for actively disliking him. Personally I find his style and his perpetual moralising intolerable. I am reminded of Wilde's reply to the literary warbler in *Reading Room* about Marie Corelli: "I am not saying anything against her morals, but to judge from her style she ought to be here". Carlyle got his style from the Germans—in particular, Richter—and he was on the German side (with a famous letter to *The Times* in the Franco-Prussian war of 1870-71. For all his fame as a prophet, he did not see what that portended, and his Germanism is not much in favour today, etc. etc.

It is more difficult to elicit what is positive in his achievement, and far more so to account for his extraordinary influence and why people thought he was such a genius. There can be no doubt about his effect on them: one can see the traces of his style in Dickens, still more in Ruskin,

and Dickens' *The Tale of Two Cities* was inspired by Carlyle's *French Revolution*, with which he first won widespread fame, his genius acknowledged.

What was characteristic of it then? First, the obvious force and vividness of his imagination; then his exceptional intuitive understanding, his rough, grim humour; he had an inflexible nose for humbug of all kinds, political, philosophical, logical—and that was something in the Victorian age which was full of it.

Paradoxically—and he was full of paradoxes—for all his egoism and concern with himself he had a sharp eye for personality and character, particularly defects. His works, and especially his brilliant *Sketches of Men*, are full of sketches of people of the past or contemporaries, very much on target.

Two outstanding examples only. Boswell had hitherto been regarded with contempt, dismissed by Macaulay. Carlyle, to tell the story, saw clearly that the man who wrote the *Life of Johnson* must have been a man of genius himself. Oliver Cromwell had never recovered from being regarded as a scoundrel about their rationality, reasonableness, perfectibility etc., such as John Stuart Mill, and the progressives had. This in time ended his friendship with Mill, for Carlyle—both as man and historian—knew too well the irrationality of human conduct, the follies, obstinacy, stupidity, etc. all that I call the "Rationalist Fallacy".

By the same token, coming from the people, he had none of the middle-class illusions about their rationality, reasonableness, perfectibility etc., such as John Stuart Mill, and the progressives had. This in time ended his friendship with Mill, for Carlyle—both as man and historian—knew too well the irrationality of human conduct, the follies, obstinacy, stupidity, etc. all that I call the "Rationalist Fallacy".

Front-line report on the new generation

Naked Robots
Warehouse

Irving Wardle

Costume designers, so often unjustly ignored, are in no danger of being overlooked in this show. Jonathan Gems's play needs Ulitz and Jean Seel's PVC miniskirts, grubby-sided dresses, video-age jodphurs, and science fiction cloaks as much as it needs the actors to go inside them like Cadillacs on legs.

Without her pink body-stocking with its two huge comical breasts (on which a friend painfully impales herself) there would not be much point to *Naked Robots*. Younger Kenny's Oscar-contending, just a pretty girl singing a gentle song. But as it comes from a figure trussed up in that erotically dehumanized rig-out, you wonder what is going on.

There are two ways of answering that. In fact, Dena (Miss Styler) is a middle-class girl, living in a squat which she shares with Nudy, a fashion designer from Mombasa. But as she sees the situation, she is a pop singer hiding her time until she gets her next group together. The play is entirely peopled with young, marginal lives; a fact that is continuously asserted by the contrast between the absurd luxury of their costume and the squalor of their living conditions.

Every few years another young playwright comes up with a front-line report on how the new generation are passing the time: affording his living space, the smug pleasure of sitting back and reflecting that nothing has changed. There they go, finding out about sex and putting on the case of this piece is the extreme gap between style and reality.

Living on the fringes of the art and criminal worlds, these kids inhabit a society where you need to collect £40,000 before it makes sense to have a child; and where the only hope of squaring a meal with survival is to make an instant killing in the fashion market.

What the play does is to present four characters who may be on the way up, and one

appalling condition of the working classes in the Industrial Revolution, and the later Carlyle whose sympathies had given out, his "message" worn out. His earlier sympathy of mind illuminates his view of the Middle Ages in *Past and Present*.

This made people think of him as a Radical; he certainly was no liberal—he hated liberal illusions—and disliked both Gladstone's humbug and Disraeli's adventurism. We might say that Carlyle was the other side of the coin to Karl Marx.

When then came his originality, his difference? People have never put a precise finger upon it. He was a lower-class man—from a remarkable family of Scotch peasant-farmers—who flashed like a thunderbolt upon the scene dominated by the upper and middle classes but was much better educated than they. He was well read in the whole of European literature, classical, French, Italian, Spanish, about the German, this last was something new, and he was the chief medium of it in Britain.

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And, of course, he was right about all that, with a more profound (also humorous) knowledge of humanity—that too wore out his sympathy in time.

I have always thought it a great mistake that he should have devoted the last decade of his working life to his immense *Life and Times of Frederick the Great*. It won Carlyle veneration in Germany, and its highest honour, the *Order pour le Mérite*—when he received, and would accept, nothing from Britain. But Frederick of Prussia can hardly have fitted into Carlyle's mould, for he was an unbeliever, a rationalist, and a homosexual. Did Carlyle not know about that—of course, in the Victorian age one could not say it, but Carlyle—with his extraordinary high-mindedness—does not seem to have known much about sex.

This was what opened the floodgates of criticism against Froude's wonderful biography of him when it came out, and produced the biggest literary controversy. Froude—upon whom Carlyle again had an overwhelming influence as an historian—thought that there were two transparent intellects in the Victorian age: Carlyle and Newman. If you want to see what Carlyle looked like—besides Whistler's speaking portrait—go down to the Chelsea Embankment, where Boehm's statue of him was said to be the best likeness by those who knew him.

A. L. Rowse

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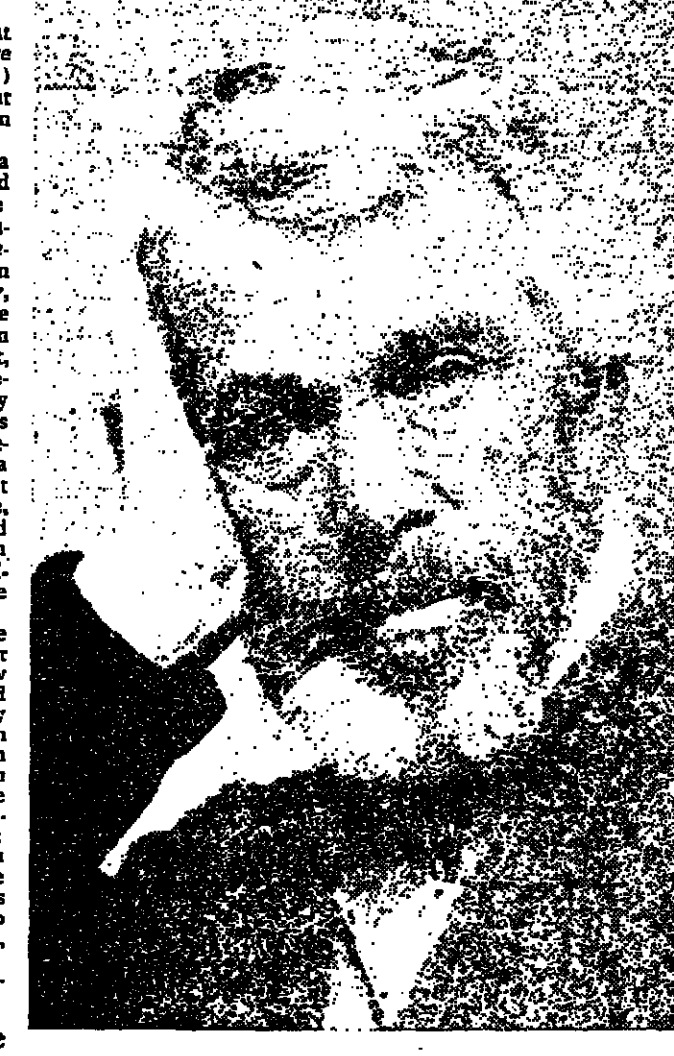
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she sees the situation, she is a pop singer hiding her time until she gets her next group together. The play is entirely peopled with young, marginal lives; a fact that is continuously asserted by the contrast between the absurd luxury of their costume and the squalor of their living conditions.

Every few years another young playwright comes up with a front-line report on how the new generation are passing the time: affording his living space, the smug pleasure of sitting back and reflecting that nothing has changed. There they go, finding out about sex and putting on the case of this piece is the extreme gap between style and reality.

Living on the fringes of the art and criminal worlds, these kids inhabit a society where you need to collect £40,000 before it makes sense to have a child; and where the only hope of squaring a meal with survival is to make an instant killing in the fashion market.

What the play does is to present four characters who may be on the way up, and one



Brave modernity

YMSO CO/Blair
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Max Harrison

The YMSO Chamber Orchestra offered a brave programme, mainly of twentieth-century works in which Stravinsky's *Pulcinella Suite* was the only familiar item. This group, rather large to be called a chamber orchestra, is a recent offshoot of the Young Musicians' Symphony Orchestra, and the performances are similar in character, doubtless because the conductor, James Blair, is the same. The "Serenade" was touching in its sad grace and the quick movements were sprightly done, although latterly the brass were not altogether immaculate.

Stravinsky's extensive re-writing of the Pergolesi originals notwithstanding, *Pulcinella* now seems a mild work, despite the pranks of trombones and double basses at one point. Not so Hindemith's *Kammermusik No 7 Op 46 No 2*, in which the solo organ is accompanied by two each of cellos

and double basses plus a small assortment of brass and woodwind. In the first movement at least, the soloist, Timothy Bond, showed bright virtuosity that contrasted effectively with the orchestra. Indeed, the music's combination of pawky humour and solid craftsmanship was odd yet engaging, so that the strange instrumentation proved to be well judged after all.

Shostakovich's music for Kozlovsky's 1964 film version of *Hamlet* is relatively familiar, but it is less well known that this was his second treatment of the subject. In 1932, between the composition of his Third and Fourth symphonies, he wrote 13 pieces for a production at the Bachinger Theatre in Moscow, and only last night were they heard for the first time in this country.

To generalize, one is tempted to say that Shostakovich's music here is very Russian instead of in any specific way Shakespearean (in the Barter sense, for example). Virtually all the movements are attractive in their invention and vitality, however, and the performance was clear and suitably energetic.

Here's a Funny Thing
Lyric Studio.
Hammersmith

Ned Chaillet

It might as well be Max Miller standing up there at the Lyric Studio in Hammersmith. Those are his words, his songs, his routine, and since I never saw him before his death in 1963, I shall trust that John Bardon is giving a performance with more than a modicum of truth in his impersonation.

Mr. Bardon, whose name more often appears in *The Times* about news stories from the north, is after a bit more than impersonation in his script *Here's a Funny Thing*. There is no effort to delve anywhere beneath the surface of Miller, but the first act of the entertainment is a diverting rehearsal with Mr Bardon's Miller given over to autobiographical reminiscence.

Rehearsal is cleverly intact as a performance by itself, with stories about Miller's upbringing and career enlivened with anecdotes about the real people and places in his life, with the uncorrupted version of the joke that had him banned from the BBC for five years. Zena Cooper's presence at the piano, zealous and responsive, gives Mr Bardon a focus that makes his stories seem spontaneous, something more than another man's memories.

Those around me that might know found Mr Bardon exact in his imitation when the snows fell in a 1952 Palladium performance. I can only praise Mr Bardon for being so funny that I trusted his own music-hall skills. His dancing is not much, and his singing is less, but the entire act works, with much of it hanging on the success of his own wit and his careful direction to women in the audience.

Bedecked in outrageous and colourful flowered costumes, his face as grotesquely made up as something from *Cabaret*, Mr Bardon's presentation is so happily rude and Mr Shakespeare's selection of material is so spontaneously right that it makes for a lively trip back in comic time.

The production is by William Gaunt, who originally staged it at the Liverpool Playhouse.

Two Beethoven rarities

RBC SO/Loughran
Festival Hall/Radio 3

Stanley Sadie

Beethoven's Choral Fantasia is one of the puzzles of music. Circumstances—the urgent need for a showy piece to round off a long concert—decreed that it evaded his usual processes of slow gestation, with piecemeal sketching and careful and critical working out; all the same, the miscalculations are too gross to be so simply explained. The huge, undistinguished piano solo at the beginning, with orchestra and chorus sitting waiting, at once establishes an out-of-joint relationship of means and ends; and the banality of some of the early variations is of an order that the greatest master of variation form had long left behind him. But the Choral Fantasia em-

bodies more than itself: lurking behind it is a series of ideas, some from the past (ghosts of passages from the fourth and fifth piano concertos) and, more important, some from the future. Its links with the Choral Symphony are well known; here we see Beethoven scouting new, grand ideas but lacking the time, the occasion, the judgment, even the equipment to penetrate their implications. We hear him, for example, use that modulation which, as A to F, takes us thrillingly from one world to another in the Choral; here, he uses it too, twice over in fact, but only for momentary dramatic effect.

It is good to hear the piece and to have a chance to think about the insights it offers into Beethoven's creative mechanisms. On Monday it opened the BBC European Broadcasting Union concert. Edith Vogel played Beethoven's part, with a good deal of poetic force in the

opening solo; later on, simply because of the odds stacked against the pianist, any interpreter is bound to emphasize weight more than subtlety.

There was more rare Beethoven, the cantata he wrote at 19 to mourn the death of Joseph II. Perhaps his aristocratic tendencies had yet to take shape; he wears here with conviction the garb of the old-fashioned court composer, and in distinctly new-fashioned music, music unmistakably a generation ahead of *Die Zauberflöte*, of Haydn's London symphonies (still to be written) and which he recalled when celebrating the reunion of Leonore and Florestan. Not much else is of that quality, but plenty is sombre and striking. James Loughran conducted this music, with due spirit in the one work, intensity in the other; the BBC Singers, acquitted themselves efficiently; and the bass solos were strongly, resonantly done by Stafford Dean, the soprano ones with visionary beauty by Felicity Lott.

PAUL MAZURSKY'S
WILLIE & PHIL
STARTS TOMORROW
RITZ GATE THEATRE
LONDON SW1P 2ET
27 JAN 8-9.30

Caroline Moorehead on the unpredictable pressures imposed by release after a long captivity

The ordeal still to be faced by the hostages

When Iranian students burst into the United States embassy in Tehran 445 days ago it was the beginning of the longest modern terrorist siege. No one doubts that the 52 men and women about to enter the American Forces hospital in Wiesbaden now will be suffering from a trauma of release almost as confusing and shocking as that of their capture. The question is what can be done about it. The fact is that psychiatric opinion today is sharply divided between those who insist that the hostages must be "decompressed", allowed to simmer down in the very company of those with whom they have been confined, and doctors who maintain that the sooner they are returned to some kind of previous normality the more likely their recovery.

Psychiatric work with the victims of terrorist sieges, kidnappings and hijackings is inevitably very new. When the first Dutch train was hijacked by South Moluccan terrorists in 1975 the survivors returned home as soon as they were released. No one thought they needed help. Only when a second train was taken two years later, and at the same time 105 Dutch children were kept prisoner in their school, did it emerge that the first group of hostages were still suffering from the aftermath of their ordeal.

Many complained of feelings of betrayal and abandonment. Relatives came forward to say that they had felt helpless before outbursts of irrational emotion or bouts of deep de-

pression. "Hijack therapy" pioneered by two Dutch psychiatrists, Dick van Mulder and Willem van Dijk did not, however, prevent the hostage children later showing signs of severe school phobia and chronic obsessiveness about their studies.

Other modern evidence comes from the Swedish bank robbery that gave the world the "Stockholm syndrome", the sense of affection that builds up between captor and captive; this bond, it seems, is an enduring one. Kristin, one of the girls held in the vaults, continued years after her release to write to her captor.

From my own research with the victims of kidnappings emerged a picture of lost ambition. Alfredo Danesi, heir to an Italian coffee empire, once a fanatical enthusiastic worker, told me that after some weeks in the hands of kidnappers he returned home no longer caring very much about anything. Jasper Cross, the British diplomat held in Canada, said that ever since his release he has felt as if he were living on borrowed time.

What is special about the American hostages is the sheer length of their captivity and that they have not been held on their own; and in this they are most like survivors of concentration camps and prisoner-of-war camps who lived under expectation of death and absolute uncertainty about the future.

Dr Frank Ochberg, an American specialist in this field, has put together a profile of possible reactions to disas-



Prayer helps... American hostages celebrating Christmas mass with a bishop of the Armenian Church.

ters of this kind. Initially, he said, a victim on his release can hardly fail to suffer from anxiety.

Whether these symptoms persist or whether they turned either into deep depressions, the "pervading joylessness" reported by ex-prisoners of concentration camps, who decades later remained suspicious of therapy, success or family happiness, or into paranoia, depends, he explained, both on the character and personality of the survivor and on their personal history.

Being confined, he found, had lowered the resistance of some to infection and with it their ability to tolerate change, while others never again regained a previous good memory or physical hardness.

Clues to the future recovery from more than a year's confinement are possibly to be found in the way the American hostages coped with the actual captivity. Few details about how they were kept have emerged, but whether alone or in groups, in relative physical comfort or acute hardship, to survive beyond the first hours of

frantic anxiety they will all have moulded personal formulas for survival just what these were, say the psychiatrists, depends on their nature, on whether they were "good copers", who marshalled their forces to remain calm; whether they were the kinds of strong personality nearly immune from vulnerability; whether they had some sort of relevant previous experience, of Army discipline, for instance.

Studies of prisoners-of-war in the Far East have shown that those who, in psychiatric language, were "passive and dependent" adapted badly; those who were either "healthy" or "schizoid" did not. Determination to live, prayer and hope are very important.

In Theresienstadt concentration camp, those who were most fortunate were either priests, doctors and nurses who were able to concentrate on the problems of others, or those people able against all odds to retain their own sense of values.

Self esteem is crucial. Sir Geoffrey Jackson, the British ambassador held captive by the

Tupamaros for eight months in Uruguay, set rules about how his kidnappers were to address him. He would answer to "Jackson" or "Senor" but not to "Cell No 10". He survived the ordeal with fortitude and, superficially at least, unscathed. Conversely, being treated like animals in a zoo, paraded or subjected to personal vilification—as the American hostages have been—has broken some men who could not stand physical pain but not the erosion of their dignity.

Several kidnappers told me that they felt throughout their confinement that their experience was easier to bear than that of their families. Certainly many wives and children have stood up heroically during the ordeal only to fall prey to despair when it was over, showing many of the same symptoms—anxiety, depression, paranoia—as the hostages themselves.

Some have felt extreme guilt at being able to do so little; others, rage against the authorities for seeming so impotent. What is clear is that nothing is ever the same again—marriages

broken, relationships cemented, aspirations altered.

The families of the American hostages may not have suffered the same sort of personal agony of hoaxes, false leads, physical proofs that the captive was alive—locks of hair, phials of blood, fingerprints, that have tormented those of kidnappers' victims, but it is not surprising to read of the waiting wife of one American hostage talking of "needing a shakedown period too".

In the past, governments have been very ambivalent about what they should do for the returning survivors of sieges in which the victims are more symbols, pawns in international politics. The American siege in Tehran is likely to change that attitude, create, possibly all over the world, a feeling of government responsibility for them. But the very confusion that surrounds their homecoming, the strictures about keeping families away from Wiesbaden while assembling a team of psychiatrists for debriefing, is an indication of how very uncertain those waiting are as to what they are likely to find.

The new offence would make it criminal to "interfere" with a motor vehicle in a public place "with the intention of" gaining entry to it, or access to anything in it, or to discover "whether it is possible to gain such entry or access".

Interference is not defined, but mainly it will cover sidling up to a car and trying the door handles. It could, of course, mean much less than that, for instance leaning on the car and looking inside.

How is the intent to be proved? It cannot be proved directly, of course, unless the accused admits it. Therefore the intention will have to be inferred by the act itself and it would in practice be for the accused to show that he did not intend to do any of the things mentioned in the section creating the offence. In which case, how will the new law differ, in practice, from the old?

In both cases evidence will be needed to show that the accused intended to do something to a car, and in both cases the intent of the person will have to be inferred from that act. If "sus" is used by the police to pick on young blacks, then so could the new law, its critics say, and the fear and antagonism felt by blacks would remain unaltered.

The Government has claimed that the new law was needed because the law of attempt—even as strengthened—and clarified in the Bill—could not be used unless the attempted crime was clear: whether it was attempted theft of the car, or of something in the car, or attempted taking and driving away, or attempt to commit criminal damage.

It is striking, however, that many police forces have hardly needed to use "sus" to fight street crime and would not need to use the new law. The Government should consider whether it is worth taking the chance of reversing the favourable response by blacks, which followed the announced abolition of "sus", by insisting on creating an unsatisfactory law which can only have the marginal effect on the fight against crime.

At least, it would seem, the Cardinal, and I really do not see why a Roman prelate should have more of an inside track

Bernard Levin

A right reverend legendary curse

It is related that the vicar of Down Ampney, understandably displeased when thieves broke into his church and stole a safe (empty of valuables), together with the alms-box, held a Service of Communion in which he called down "God's anger and judgment" on the malefactor. The good pastor was clearly not altogether happy with the word "curse" (he used the 1928 Prayer Book, in which it does not occur in the Communion), but there is no doubt that, whatever he called it, that is what he was doing. And what the robbers, he declared after the service, "will be clobbered, probably by the civil authorities, or God may clobber them on His own". (Well, yes; if God cannot mete out punishment to a pair of wrongdoers without calling in the Watch Committee of the Rural District Council of Down Ampney to render unto God the things that are Caesar's, things have changed, rather dramatically in the God department since I was a boy.)

The vicar, as a matter of fact, was quite deeply into the theology of the business; he pointed out that God might let the thieves off completely, added that their souls could be redeemed in the next world even if they had never had it shed in this one, and finished by expressing the firm belief that "The curse will bring them to repentance".

No surprise

All of which may provide thought, awe or entertainment, according to taste and theological views. But to another man of the vicar's cloth, a Minor Canon of St Paul's, it would certainly not have occasioned surprise. For the Minor Canon, in his day, had set all the subject of those who rob churches, those who curse them for doing so, and the effect on the former of the dreadful words of the latter.

Come; you surely need no more clues than that? Oh, very well!

The friars are kneeling, And hunting and feeling, The carpet, the floor, and the walls, and the ceiling. The Cardinal drew off each plum-coloured shoe, And left his red stockings exposed to the view. He peeped, and he felt in the toes and the heels; They turn up the dishes, they turn up the plates, They take up the poker and poke out the grates. They turn up the rugs, they examine the mugs— But, —no such thing! They can't find THE RING! And the Abbot declared that, "when nobody twig'd it, Some rascal or other had popp'd in, and prigg'd it!" Quite; now you know. But I bet you haven't read it for at least as long as I, and that must be 30 years at least. As for the vicar of Down Ampney, it is plain that he has never read it at all, for if he had he would not have wasted time on the 1928 Prayer Book version of the Communion Service; he would have gone straight to the 1662 version, and all with the Cardinal's curse.

He cursed him at board, he cursed him in bed; From the sole of his foot to the crown of his head; He cursed him in sleeping, which should dream of all the devil, and wake in a fright; He cursed him in eating, he cursed him in drinking, he cursed him in coughing, in sneezing, in winking; He cursed him in sitting, in standing, in rising; He cursed him in walking, in riding, in flying; He cursed him in living, he cursed him in dying!

And of course the good news for the watchful shepherd of Down Ampney is that it works. At least, it "works" for the Cardinal, and I really do not see why a Roman prelate should have more of an inside track

in these matters than an English country person of the Anglican persuasion.

The day was gone, the night came on, The Monks and the Friars they search'd till dawn; When the Sacristan saw, On crumpled claw, Come limping a poor little lame Jackdaw! No longer gay, As yesterday; His feathers all seem'd to be turned the wrong way; His pinions droop'd—he could hardly stand— His head was as bald as the palm of your hand; His eye so dim, So wasted each limb, That, heedless of grammar, they all cried, "THAT'S HIM!"

Of all the great English anthologies, only *The Golden Treasury* (expanded and brought up to date by C. Day Lewis in 1954), Quiller-Couch's *Oxford Book of English Verse* (similarly revised in 1972 by Helen Gardner) the Reverend Richard Barham's *Ingoldsby Legends* (the least known today; I would not be surprised to learn that the book is not even in print. And it is not difficult to see why; the truth is that Barham's implacable facelessness in his poetry is so far out of fashion that it will clearly never come back, and his prose ghost stories are far too insipid for modern tastes. Nor is there any help in the fact that, although he hunted widely and assiduously for legends to tell he told them all, prose as well as verse, in his own words: the *Ingoldsby Legends* are no more of a unity for that).

Yet *The Jackdaw of Rheims*, and that alone, survives, and I daresay it is known to thousands who would not recognize another line of Barham's, and who indeed have never heard of him and do not even know who wrote it. It has an innocence and a charm that, combined with the ingenuity of Barham's prosody, carries a reader irresistibly along and as the tale unfolds to its double happy ending, for a Cardinal lifts the curse as formal as he imposes it, and the jackdaw thereafter leads a life of exemplary piety; it casts a glow that explains its hold on so many generations.

Nearest comparison

I suppose *The Pied Piper* is the nearest comparison (for all I know—I am no Browning devotee—his author may have used Barham as a model); it, too, has survived when so much of the poet's other work has perished, and for much the same reason, which is the good heart and good humour it contains, together with a story sufficiently strong to force its way into the memory and remain there. (Incidentally, Rossini's *The Thieving Magpie* is not a version of the same story.)

So you see, the vicar of Down Ampney had good poetic warrant for his fearsome Communion, and he could have found in Barham as well as in scripture support for his view that the thieves will not only be punished by divine authority but will repent and reform as soon as they have been. And indeed, compared to what happened to the poor jackdaw the fate our man of God envisages for his robbers ("it could take the form of a road accident or nothing more serious than a fall downstairs and a broken collarbone") is mild enough; anyway, if the villains are reading these lines, let them take heart from the final apostrophe of the Jackdaw of Rheims, who died in the odour of sanctity and was finally canonized as St. Jam Crow. And if any of us should see a particularly wicked begone church-robbing in the next few days, let us resolve to tell the vicar that his curse has worked and he may now lift it.

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Why the Russians are boring into the ice cap

Twenty-five years ago the Russians, whose country is the largest frozen wasteland than any other in the world, sent a small expedition to the other side of the globe on the first Soviet exploration of the Antarctic.

Today, as the Russians celebrate the anniversary, about 1,400 people, including over 600 scientists, are in the southern continent on the biggest and most ambitious Soviet programme, to explore for minerals, bore deep into the ice cap, map the Antarctic mainland and study the ionosphere. The Russians are now among the most active and experienced of the 12 nations exploring Antarctica.

The latest expedition, now halfway through its work during the Antarctic summer, is the twenty-sixth to set off from the Institute for Arctic and Antarctic Research in Leningrad. It is led by Dr Vladimir Shamonteyev, a 50-year-old geographer with vast experience of wintering on drifting icefloes, and is remarkably equipped.

Eight ships are taking part, including the main supply vessel, *Kapitan Markov*, vessels for studying the ocean floor, three helicopters, four light aircraft, snow-tractors, hauler-trucks and mobile homes. Last year a direct air link was established between Moscow and the main Molodyozhnaya observatory in Enderby Land, one of seven permanent Soviet research stations.

A runway was built on an ice-floe 60 miles away by a special machine for heating and compacting the snow and it is strong enough to bear fully-laden turbo-prop Ilyushin 18D aircraft and even the larger Ilyushin 62 jets.

The flight takes 27 hours, stopping at Aden and in Mozambique, and is now used regularly to ferry scientists and supplies to the frozen continent, a dis-

tance of 10,000 miles. Helicopters take the cargo on to the observatory.

Half the team of 600 scientists who arrived in October relieved those who stayed in the Antarctic stations throughout the bitter southern winter which lasted the Soviet outpost with winds of up to 120 miles an hour, destroyed ice wharves on the coasts and delayed supplies.

The current expedition has several main tasks. One is to drill through the ice-cap near the Komsomolskaya research station, 10,000 feet above sea level and 500 miles inland from the Mirny base on the Davis Sea coast.

The well, to be sunk about three miles, over three seasons,

is being cut by an electric heat drill which will bring up test samples of ice, the "congealed snags" of climatic conditions centuries ago. The glacier at this point is almost 10,000ft thick.

Marine geologists are also making seismic soundings into the sedimentary deposits at the bottom of the Weddell Sea, close to the South Pole, to study the continent's underwater bonding with South America. They have already discovered a huge rift running from the Atlantic through the Weddell Sea deep into the ice-cap.

They will establish a new base, "Druzhnaya 2", about 400 miles west of a seasonal base "Druzhnaya 1", set up five years ago on a glacier at the

southern shore of the sea.

Earlier this year a new meteorological station "Ruskiya" was opened in Marie Byrd Land. On the shore of the Amundsen Sea in the western sector of Antarctica. Scientists are measuring industrial wastes in the snow caused by atmospheric pollution.

They are also studying the ionosphere, a year one base reported the presence of a mysterious energy force causing unusual disturbances in the upper atmosphere. Laser beams detected inexplicable changes in the temperature, pressure and density of the atmosphere 60 miles up, possibly caused, the experts believe, by ionized particles streaming from the sun.

One of the main tasks of all expeditions has been to explore for minerals in the Antarctic. The Russians, however, vigorously deny that they are engaged in a territorial expansion on the continent. *Pravda* said last year that the setting up of a new research station did not contradict the 1959 Antarctic Treaty: the Soviet Union strictly to the principle of demilitarization and neutralization of the continent.

Several foreign scientists have joined the Russians in their searches. Americans and East Germans were attached to the twenty-fifth expedition and East German geophysicists are taking part in the present mission.

In 1978 polar explorers completed a two-month journey across the continent to the Vostok station at the "pole of cold". They travelled 2,000 miles by sledge and caterpillar train. Last year the Russians also published a new map of Antarctica which they said would be the basis for their search for valuable ores and minerals near the South Pole.

Michael Binyon

Sus, a new law for old?

Whatever positive effect the "sus" law may have had in combating street crime in the inner urban areas was far outweighed by the damage it did to relations between the police and the black community. "Sus" became a symbol for police discrimination against young blacks. In some cities it soured the attitude of the ethnic minorities to the police in particular and, by extension, to authority generally.

The police have consistently denied that they applied the law in a discriminating way, but there is enough evidence to suggest that there was bias on their part, although much of it may have been unconscious. But even if some of the black reaction has been exaggerated, the feelings engendered by "sus" are none the less sincere and deeply held.

It was therefore, with a sigh of relief that the black community greeted, first, the recommendation by the Home Affairs select committee that "sus" should be abolished and the Government's decision to implement that proposal.

The Criminal Attempts Bill, which has just received its second reading in the Commons does indeed scrap "sus" in favour of a new offence of attempted theft of the car, or of something in the car, or attempted taking and driving away, or attempt to commit criminal damage.

It is striking, however, that many police forces have hardly needed to use "sus" to fight street crime and would not need to use the new law. The Government should consider whether it is worth taking the chance of reversing the favourable response by blacks, which followed the announced abolition of "sus", by insisting on creating an unsatisfactory law which can only have the marginal effect on the fight against crime.

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LONDON DIARY

Brewster's cliffhanging session

One man who did not know which way to turn yesterday was Kingman Brewster, the United States ambassador in London. He spent a good part of the day listening to the cliffhanging news from Iran with one ear and the progress of President Reagan's inauguration in Washington with the other. In spite of a day of momentous events, given that no special celebration was arranged at the embassy for either event, although staff found it difficult to keep their heads down at their everyday work. But there was immense relief, and not a few celebratory bottles of bubbly, at the select Inauguration Day reception hosted by the Ambassador at his official residence last night soon after the news of the hostages' release had been confirmed.

Concerning the more predictable of the day's two major stories, that on Capitol Hill, it was no occasion for Brewster to celebrate, as Jimmy Carter's

departure from the White House also signals the impending departure of Brewster from Grosvenor Square. A former president of Yale University, he was a Carter appointee who arrived as Ambassador to the Court of St James in May, 1977.

It would be highly unusual for him to be kept on by an incoming President who will have a great number of friends and associates to whom he will be obliged to offer plum posts, of which the London embassy is undoubtedly one. Brewster will, as a matter of course, offer his resignation to the new President, and has indeed let it be known to his staff that he intends to return home soon. Diplomatic circles have been so busy watching the drama of the hostages that they have had little time to speculate on a possible successor. I shall pass on any straws that the wind blows by.

Rumbling on

The man who abolished the Navy's rum ration was impatient yesterday, some 10 years after that shattering event, Admiral of the Fleet Lord Norton, who is about to front

a BBC television series on sea power, told a press conference he knew the decision would hardly endear him to the lower deck.

"But what tipped the scale was when I discovered that the ration we were giving every sailor from the age of 20 was sufficient to disqualify him from driving." Asked if this also applied to driving a ship, the admiral pierced the questioner with a baleful eye and growled, "The officers didn't get the bloody rum."

Jarring note

Representatives of one of Britain's biggest jam manufacturers will be inviting MPs to taste their wares at tea-time in the Palace of Westminster this afternoon. Their objective is to achieve a change in the present food and drugs laws which at least one local health authority has interpreted as making the sale of these long-established and popular products illegal.

Women's Institutes have been selling home-made jam for at least 50 years at church fairs and on market stalls. But last year health inspectors at Stockton-on-Tees ruled that any

premises where sausages or ported, pickled, pressed or preserved foods were prepared for public sale had to be registered and inspected. And they decided to register the domestic kitchens of the local WI members.

Wendy Smith of the National Federation of Women's Institutes said yesterday: "If all health authorities interpreted the Food and Drugs Act as strictly as that, we would be breaking the law every time we took a pot of jam to a vicarage fund-raising."

The WI members are incensed at the aspersions cast on their wholesome products, and the inevitable inference that to sell to the public is inferior to the commercial jams sold on supermarket shelves. They intend to give the Commons a supply of WI jam to sell to show their superiority may be proved.

he would hurry up and do it so that their 422 regular weekly market stalls throughout the country may be preserved from prowling trading standards officers.

A book recently published in New York is called "STD: A Commonsense Guide". British readers looking to it for tips on how to avoid all those failed telephone calls will be disappointed. As every American teenager knows, STD stands for sexually transmitted diseases.

Taking cover

Is your home next to a target for a Russian H-bomb? The Kremlin has not got round to handing out maps showing the precise spots at which its missiles are poised, but for a mere £15 you can now confirm your worst fears.

Aftermath, a London-based firm, reckons it can tell people the possible damage their homes could suffer from heat, blast and radiation in a nuclear attack. A report "specific to

My support for the third party depends on how many seats they'll have in the House of Lords.



your home" will indicate "the direction from which these effects might be expected, based on known targets". Known? Really? The report will advise on the

level of medical supplies, food stocks, special equipment and other items which should be kept ready. The householder will be relieved to know that supplies are available from Aftermath in "a series of packs to increase survival capability". The cheapest is £50. Well, it makes a change from all those expensive fallout shelters as an insurance policy.

I would urge them up to ask whether I should move to a basement hideout in Rockall, but nowhere in their literature is there a phone number. But they do offer to send me a risk assessment report. I sent my editor's home address. Oh, come on; Leonid wouldn't go that far, would he?

Star quality

Lady Donaldson, wife of Lord Justice Donaldson, appeal court judge and sometime head of the ill-starred National Industrial Relations Court, has declared her intention of making a further assault on the particularly well defended bastion of male domination: the City of London. She has been nominated as a candidate at the election in

June of City Sheriff, and if successful will be the first woman ever to hold the post.

She first breached the City's defences in 1966 when she became the first woman member of the Square Mile's governing body, the Court of Common Council; in 1975 she went on to become the first female Alderman.

Lady Donaldson, already a magistrate in the City, will find herself looking after the needs of judges at the Old Bailey if she wins the sheriffdom. But she is unlikely to have to attend to her husband; his main business is in the Queen's Bench Division in the Strand.

The Bible Society, in an advertisement for a programme for the computer press, is offering "opportunities for Christians to use their computer skills in full-time service form God" at their "new headquarters in Swindon. After the mundane language of the new Alternative Service Book, I trust this is not part of a plan to translate the Authorized Version into Data Basic.

Alan Hamilton



New Printing House Square, London, WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Mr Ronald Reagan has assumed the Presidency of the United States, and with it the leadership of the western alliance, at a time when both much need to have their confidence restored. The loss of American confidence can be attributed partly to economic difficulties; partly to the fact that the United States no longer dominates the international scene to the extent it did in military, economic or diplomatic terms; and partly to the cumulative effect of successive blows, external and internal, to the country's self-respect.

The economic difficulties may be temporary, though they are none the less pressing for that. In his inaugural address yesterday President Reagan recognised the extent of the economic challenge, which is not to say that he has devised the best means for meeting it. One of the principal weaknesses of the policies he put forward during his election campaign was his simple belief that it would be possible to have massive reductions in direct taxation and an increase in defence expenditure without further inflation. He has subsequently repeated his commitment to cutting personal taxes by a third over three years. His Secretary of the Treasury, however, has been taking a distinctly more cautious line—which encourages the hope that the Reagan administration will be much less naive in its policies than might be assumed by listening to the President.

With sensible management the American economy should revive in due course. It will not be easy, with inflation running at its present high rate, to keep prices under control as the country comes out of recession; but at least there is no reason to regard these problems as incapable of solution. It is not possible to

believe, though, that the United States can recover its former international predominance. Its diminished authority is something with which Americans need to come to terms, without exaggerating the decline in their power. This presents Mr Reagan with a psychological as much as a practical challenge.

It is one that he is peculiarly well fitted to meet. One of Mr Carter's tragedies was that he failed to appreciate the need for a leader to preserve a nation's myths without basing its policies on false hopes. Mr Reagan has exceptional skill as a communicator, whether on television or in person. He demonstrated this skill yesterday without encouraging exaggerated expectations—unless one regards his ambition to eradicate unemployment as too optimistic. It was worth taking that risk, though, in order to demonstrate his recognition of the suffering imposed by unemployment on the minority communities. His doctrine that "putting America back to work means putting all Americans back to work" may not easily be realized. But, along with his call for "equal opportunities for all Americans with no barriers born of bigotry or discrimination" it suggests a pleasing determination to be the President of all his people.

The problems of the western alliance are also partly psychological. Or at least they will require careful psychological treatment because some of the practical difficulties will not easily be removed. The alliance has suffered in recent years from the sense that the United States was not sufficiently firm nor sufficiently consistent in its policies. This can be corrected. In so far as it is possible to judge a President's foreign policy intentions from his inaugural address, the evidence that Mr Reagan offered yesterday was mildly encouraging.

Some may regret his implied rejection of the Carter policy on human rights. But it was inevitable that Mr Reagan would reject that policy, and it has to be acknowledged that the Carter administration's application of the policy contributed to the impression of inconsistency. In general Mr Reagan spoke with sufficient firmness towards allies and sufficient firmness towards the Soviet Union, without being provocative.

But such general statements, no matter how appropriately phrased, cannot conceal the real differences in the way that the member states of the alliance see their national interests. The European members are more concerned than the Americans about détente and trade with eastern Europe. They are in general less ready to act outside Europe for the protection of western interests. They are made uneasy by the loss of relative American power, at the same time as they fear that this power might sometimes be used unwisely. There is also the anxiety that now that American power no longer predominates the United States may not be so ready to use it for the protection of Europe.

These fears may not all be justified. Indeed they are not all really consistent with each other. But if the alliance is to be more cohesive than it has been in the past few years the President of the United States will need to convey both a greater sense of strength and a greater sensitivity to European interests, irritating though these may be. Here again Mr Reagan may be helped by his power to communicate. Few Europeans expect him to be a great President. But he may prove to be a President whom they can understand and with whom they can come to terms more easily than his recent predecessors.

SOME RELIEF FOR WHALES

It may be too soon for the whales of the world to spout a sigh of relief over Russia's announcement that it means to convert its far eastern whaling fleet to other uses. The Soviet Union is the busiest hunter of whales in the world—last year it accounted for one-third by weight of the entire world catch—but it has made large offers of an amendment in its ways before, without much apparent result. Moreover, the present voluntary system for control of whaling sets an overall quota for each whaling ground, which the countries operating there apportion among themselves. Even if the Russians really mean to stop whaling in the Antarctic regions, where the threatened larger species are caught, as well as in their eastern waters, the Japanese might simply fill the gap.

It would not be wholly surprising if Russia has decided to give up large-scale whaling. Partly because of the progressive marking-down of quotas, and partly because of an ominous tendency for the number and size of whales to decline, the aging Soviet fleet can hardly be very profitable any longer. In Japan, the second most active whaling nation, many jobs still

depend on the industry, and a ban would cause more problems. But a Soviet withdrawal from the trade might sway voting on the International Whaling Commission, and make possible a moratorium on whaling, and international sanctions against countries which broke it.

The only safe way of ensuring that the whale-hunters do not pursue their quarry into extinction is to agree to stop whaling altogether until enough is known about their habits and life-cycle to make it clear what level of fishing, if any, the population can bear. Adequate commercial substitutes are now available for all whaling products. Some of the rarest kinds of whale have already been accorded complete official protection (it is a matter of debate how far this is a safeguard to the individual whale from the sights of the individual harpoon-gun), and the result has been to increase pressure on other species.

The Soviet announcement also promises other extensive measures for the protection of wildlife. This suggests that Russia may be beginning to attach more importance generally to the principle of conservation. Like the United States, it has the historical attitudes of a frontier

nation, apt to squander natural resources on the assumption that there is always more space to move into. It has been politically impossible for a spontaneous conservation movement to grow up in Russia as vigorously as it has in America. The third whaling nation in the southern hemisphere, Brazil, preserves an unregenerate frontier spirit to this day, by land as well as sea.

In America's frontier era, Herman Melville claimed that his countrymen were slaughtering not less than 13,000 sperm whale alone each year—a figure only slightly smaller than today's world quota for all species. Fears of overfishing were already being expressed in 1851, but Melville's comparison of the "humped herds of whales with the humped herds of buffalo" which had disappeared in one lifetime in his own country, was nevertheless confident that the whale would be "immortal in his species". If the oceans swallowed up the land in a second flood, he prophesied that the whale would still swim triumphantly over the site of the Tuileries and Windsor Castle, and the Kremlin. The whale's chance of being there to do so depends on decisions being made today in the Kremlin, and in Tokyo.

STAMPING ON THE BLACK PRESS

The South African government's latest sortie against the opposition press has succeeded in forcing the two largest-selling newspapers for blacks to close down. The government's cynical behaviour has been shameful even by its own standards of injustice. The consequences may be significant.

Its conduct cannot be other than counter-productive. The government has been patiently attempting, over a number of years, to win over some of the country's critics overseas by relaxing, little by little, some of the more obvious injustices and absurdities of the apartheid system. It has toned down "petty" apartheid, increased the possibility of playing multi-racial sport (though not nearly as much as some apologists claim) and granted, in certain respects, a measure of equality between the races where none existed before. None of this greatly

mitigates the fundamental evil of the system, but such tentative steps, supported by encouraging noises from the Prime Minister, Mr Botha and some of his ministers, gave some cause for hope. The active desire to destroy any feelings of optimism about the future of the country. It was, in terms of foreign relations, an extraordinarily inept thing to do, even for a government not known for its delicacy of diplomacy. Its claim that South Africa has, unlike most African states, a more or less free press looks more threadbare now than it has ever done before.

The main impact, however, will be on the internal politics of the country. South Africa's blacks, now permanently deprived of their two principal avenues of news and comment on affairs affecting them, will be further alienated. The government's move is bound to convert more moderates to militancy,

and to make any peaceful solution to the country's problems even more difficult to achieve. It must not be thought that other papers could take the place of the two that are closing. As it is, *The Post* and the *Sunday Post* were more cautious and less openly critical than their predecessor *The World*. Any successors would have to be even more bland and obsequious. If they were not, they too would face the banning order.

But the closures carry a clear message for South Africa's white opposition newspapers as well. For many years the government, through a host of laws coupled with extra-legal pressures, has been steadily whittling down the effective freedom of the South African press. Now, it has made it clear that it might be prepared to use its ultimate sanction with less reluctance. What has happened to these two black papers cannot make the *Rand Daily Mail* rest easily.

Historical heirlooms

From Mr Denis Mahon, FSA
Sir, Commander L. M. M. Saunders Watson (January 15), writing as deputy chairman of the Historic Houses Association, is of course correct in implying that the administration of the statutory provisions for conditional exemption from capital transfer tax for works of art, museum objects, libraries and archives does not present problems for owners of houses open to the public. In addition no difficulties arise in the case of those relatively few owners who lend their treasures for prolonged periods to public museums.

But in the case of owners, perhaps even with only two or three exemptable objects, who live in flats or houses not suitable for public access, the administration of the statutory provisions by the Capital Taxes Office is in effect contrary to the spirit of the legislation.

The fact is that, before permission is given for use of the existing administrative facilities for viewing by

appointment, together with agreeing to lend to accredited temporary public exhibitions, the applicants for exemption are pressured by the CTO to find museums willing to accept periodical long-term loans of their works of art. This is very much easier said than done in practice.

The consequences of such unfounded pressures are that, first, owners are positively discouraged from claiming exemption and, secondly, that the works in question find their way on to the international art market. This appears to be quite contrary to the stated government policy of preventing the dispersal abroad of our cultural inheritance.

Yours faithfully,
DENIS MAHON,
33 Cadogan Square, SW1.

not mention the final outcome of the case of *Madame Tussaud's* in 1894 (for that the Birmingham exhibition in that year had no connection with Madame Tussaud's).

When Mr Monson, of Ardnamoan fame, sued Madame Tussaud's for alleged libel because of the way his waxwork figure was exhibited, very near, though not actually in, the Chamber of Horrors, there was a question of whether he had consented to the exhibition complained of.

His action to recover damages was heard before the Lord Chief Justice and a special jury in January, 1895. The jury, having retired for a quarter of an hour, found for the plaintiff: damages one farthing.

A full report of the proceedings appeared in *The Times* of January 25, 30 and 31, 1895.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN LOUGH,
Company Secretary,
Madame Tussaud's Ltd,
Marylebone Road, NW1.

Model example

From Mr John Lough
Sir, The interesting letter from Mr Jonathan Ruffe (January 15) did

Seeking a middle way in politics

From Sir Leslie Murphy
Sir, I have been a lifelong supporter of the Labour Party. The reasons for this are very similar to those mentioned by Mr Callaghan at the recent conference at Blackpool. My father became unemployed during the depression of the thirties as a result of the closure of the plant in which he was working. I was at school at the time and his experiences made a deep impression on me.

It seemed to me then that the Labour Party had a better understanding of the consequences for the individual of policies which neglected human and spiritual values in pursuit of economic and financial goals. It was searching for a fairer and more just society.

Later on, I became private secretary to Hugh Gaitskell and this served to confirm those early formed views. His untimely death was in my view a great tragedy for the Labour Party and has had a decisive effect upon its policies and its fortunes.

We are now facing a period in which we may experience some of the problems of the thirties. Part of the cause of economic and financial changes on the world scene from which we cannot insulate ourselves. These are the rise in energy prices, the depression in world trade and the inflationary pressures felt on a worldwide basis. But the domestic policies pursued by the present Government during the last 18 months have undoubtedly exacerbated the situation in the United Kingdom and as a result we are facing further rises in unemployment—perhaps to three million or worse—the spread of poverty and homelessness and an increase in social tensions, particularly among the young unemployed.

In these circumstances, I would have expected to continue my support for the Labour Party. But the policies which it is now proposing seem to me just as unacceptable as those of the present Government. The National Executive of the Labour Party is dominated by the left wing and is committed to withdrawal from the EEC, unilateral disarmament and a wholesale extension of public ownership of industry. In addition, it is attempting to force the Parliamentary Labour Party to be bound by the decisions of the party conference. This would mean that the focus of power would be transferred away from Parliament. This seems to me to be a repudiation of the system of parliamentary democracy by which this country has been governed for centuries.

We are therefore faced with the necessity of finding some other alternative to the two main political parties. For I have reached the conclusion that the slide of the Labour Party to the left, which started after the death of Hugh Gaitskell, has now gone so far that the moderates have little chance of regaining it.

What is needed is for men and women of moderate views to work out a set of policies that would appeal to the broad mass of public opinion which is dissatisfied with the extremes of both right and left. This is a task which is not easy. Mr Steel has given a lead with the recently issued statement of a 10-point policy. Mr Jenkins last week indicated his readiness to play his part. We now need to know whether the Labour moderates are prepared to join in or whether they will consent to be submerged by the slide to the left.

If this process can be accomplished successfully it could provide the basis for an electoral alliance between the Liberals and a new group of moderate politicians, those who believe in parliamentary democracy and hold moderate radical views. I consider it to be essential that, by the time of the next election, the electorate should be offered a viable alternative to the existing political spectrum.

The running must be made by experienced politicians, but I am

sure that, if they will make the effort, there will be many like me who will be prepared to support them.

Yours faithfully,
LESLIE MURPHY,
Hedgerley,
6 Barton Common Road,
Barton-on-Sea, Hampshire.
January 20.

From Mr Roger Pincham
Sir, It is scarcely for a Liberal to elaborate upon the fine but important distinctions drawn by Susan Crosland between "democratic socialism" and "social democracy" (January 19). One can only assume that the key to the difference lies in the priority given to her three strands of "Croslandism", liberty, democracy and equality.

The pursuit of material equality is not and never has been a serious objective of Liberalism. Certainly we have campaigned for the elimination of poverty and the establishment of a decent and rising standard of living for all members of society. Extravagant prosperity in the midst of poverty, whether on a national or international scale, can only be abhorrent to the spirit of Liberalism.

It is Tony Crosland asserted, "socialism is basically about equality", then Liberalism is basically about liberty. For all its faults, democracy remains the most reliable guarantor of liberty: hence our commitment to extend the influence of democracy, participation and responsibility to many important aspects of public and commercial life.

Likewise, the pursuit of liberty necessitates the dissolution of monopolies, whether of capital, labour or resources. Where that is not possible, monopolies must be under firm control and accountable to the public as a whole.

In essence, the pursuit of liberty is all about giving the individual the maximum opportunity to fulfil his own talents and thereby to serve the community in the most effective way. Hence, our continuing commitment to vigorous and responsible free enterprise and the encouragement of a greater variety of corporate forms. Without this successful wealth-producing base the national decline must continue.

A Liberal society can only be based upon the recognition of the unique and thereby equal value of each of its members but, by the same token, it would not incline towards the Marxist error of imagining that equality of value implies equality of wealth and need. Who, indeed, has the wisdom or authority to assess another man's needs?

I would suggest generosity and love of justice as the two principal strands supporting the primary Liberal commitment to the defence and extension of liberty. These strands, in their nature, embrace the principles of individualism, internationalism, voluntarism, devotion of power, ecological responsibility, co-operation, and the very thorough care of those unable to look after themselves.

If an convinced that Liberals and latter-day social democrats have sufficient in common to build a new and powerful platform in British politics, but if this is to succeed it must be based upon the honourable alliance of distinctive political philosophies rather than a murky liaison of political convenience.

David Steel's 10-point plan has been welcomed across the country as a serious initiative at a time of national crisis. If it provides evidence of the Liberal Party's willingness to build bridges, it is also indicative of our determination to make a powerful and independent contribution to the reform and recovery of this nation in the 1980s.

Yours, etc.
ROGER PINCHAM, Chairman of the Liberal Party, 1 Whitehall Place, SW1.
January 20.

Instrumental in educating the young

From Mr and Mrs Christopher Driver
Sir, Professor Peter Wishart (January 17) writes from a university music department to say that without music in the curriculum the people perish, and this makes it easy for people who know no better to discount his views on grounds of professional interest. But he is right.

Both of us belong to a generation in which comparatively few children could be taught to read music and play instruments, and think ourselves fortunate to have been among the exceptions because there were people who could see what was of enduring value, even in 1940-50, when the country had more pressing things on its mind than it does now.

Neither of us would have thought of making a living in music, even if it had been in our power; that is no more the point of musical education than religious education, in the centuries which insisted upon it, was designed to make a priest of every pupil. But without basic musical skills we would have been shut out from, and our own children would have been slower or less likely to enter, a creative world which seldom reveals its innermost secrets to listeners only.

State school pupils of the past 20 years have at last been permitted to explore this world in significant numbers, with results that will be noticeable in 50 years' time (that is no hyperbole: most London amateur orchestras, and concert audiences, include someone whose ears and fingers were trained to the violin in Austria before the Anschluss).

If music in schools is now to be dismissed again as a luxury because politicians and administrators, local or national, are themselves ill-equipped to see the point of it, then the next generation will be unfairly deprived and will not forgive those responsible, if it eventually realises what it has missed.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER DRIVER,
MARGARET DRIVER,
6 Church Road, Highgate, NG.

alike is abundantly clear and the level of excellence and international recognition achieved by British professional and amateur musicians is widely appreciated. It is sad indeed that Mr Kinneer's obsession with cost (January 21) not only leads him to quite inaccurate conclusions on the economic front, but reveals complete misapprehension concerning the value of music in education.

Far from abandoning instrumental tuition in their schools, Somerset would be better advised to make it a core subject in the primary school curriculum and for the early stages of secondary education as advocated by Mr Watson (January 12). There is no subject that cultivates intellectual, aesthetic, and physical response, concentration, and coordination to the same degree that is regularly achieved while learning an instrument or singing.

Apart from the development of the particular skill, the combination of timing, accuracy, judgment, and taste that is required as a pupil progresses can only improve performance in other subjects if instrumental lessons are followed with a sense of purpose. To deny this educational opportunity to children is shortsighted in the extreme.

Many have paid tribute to the specialist music schools and the education they provide. It should be our aim to discover latest talent in all children, not only in those who have the good fortune to be able, or choose, to pay the extra fees involved. More important than the discovery of a very gifted child, however, is the contribution that musical expertise may make to identifying other unsuspected talents in the average pupil: musical ability tends to show itself earlier than many academic talents and can prove the key to progress in other areas. We can be thankful that many education authorities fully recognise the immense value for money that instrumental tuition provides in their systems.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM SMALLBONE,
Ballards,
Keate's Lane,
Eton College,
Windsor,
Berkshire.
January 16.

The spirit of rugby

From Mr D. G. Ives
Sir, Mr K. Spence writes (January 15) that the game of rugby has lost its joie de vivre and goes on to give several reasons why this is so, and as a season referee and a schoolboy coach I must agree with him.

Too many club and international games are played in a negative spirit with the emphasis apparently more on defence than attack, and back play initiative seems to be stifled in favour of the set-piece move; cunning the referee has become commonplace. Unfortunately this attitude is creeping into the schoolboy game and it is not unknown for school coaches to teach dubious or even illegal and dangerous practices, and to comment unfavourably on referees.

Shouts from the touch line exhorting players to "kill him", "hit him", "if they do that, you know what to do", "get him on side", "don't let them come off-side" (the last two indirectly addressed to the referee), all contribute to an unhealthy attitude to the game.

A greater emphasis on fitness through regular training sessions has improved the standard of play at all levels, but we are in danger of losing sight of the fact that it is a game, and one that should be enjoyed by all 31 participants.

Yours faithfully,
D. G. IVES, Headmaster,
Holmwood House,
Langton Green,
Tunbridge Wells,
Kent.
January 16.

Caveat vendor

From Sir James Goldsmith
Sir, *The Times* reported, in a somewhat idiosyncratic way, the recent appeal by Mr Michael Gillard heard before Lord Denning, Lord Justice Templeman and Lord Justice Dunn. Mr Michael Gillard, who is a law officer employed by Granada TV and Private Eye, was appealing against a unanimous decision by a jury that I was justified in describing him as a blackmailer.

As is normal, the case in the Court of Appeal was opened by Mr Gillard's counsel, Mr M. Wright, QC. While Mr Gillard's case was being presented significant publicity appeared in your newspaper. My case was then put to their lordships by Lord Rawlinson, QC. When my case was presented, a sudden hush descended on the court, and those of us most of us newswriters.

However, I was particularly amused by this morning's paper (January 20) which reported the unanimous decision by the three learned judges to dismiss Mr Gillard's appeal. Your report appeared in two paragraphs at the bottom of page 2 under the somewhat equivocal title, "Goldsmith case appeal fails". Do you believe that this title would indicate to the average reader that I had won or lost the case?

It is clear, however, that some people think that they can treat this law with contempt, and so I would like to appeal to those others who may wish to demolish a "listed" building, but at the same time believe in observing the law: to contact us at this address before they do so. They will then have the double satisfaction of providing for posterity a better record of our heritage than would otherwise be available and of acting as good citizens.

Yours faithfully,
P. J. FOWLER,
Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England),
Fortress House,
23 Savile Row, W1.

In the slightly later light

From Mr Terence Harris
Sir, I believe that Mrs Margaret Leigh (January 6) is right and Mr Bernard Kaplan (January 13) is wrong. Mr Kaplan is surely making the common error of equating New York with the United States. In my experience, covering many parts of the United States outside New York, the Labour Party does not start at 8 o'clock. In my own company a high proportion of key executives regularly arrive between 7 and 7.30 am and work late.

However, the key issue is not the starting time of business. Viewed from this country to the United States will have noticed the extremely poor coverage of news on the radio. Anyone wishing to keep up with world affairs has little option but to tune in to the early television news programmes and somehow they manage to do this whilst preparing themselves for work. Therefore the situations in the United States and Britain are not comparable.

In Britain we have an excellent news service on the radio and I would be surprised if busy executives would bother with early morning television.

Yours faithfully,
T. J. HARRIS,
Vice-President, European Organisation,
Centric,
Petersham House,
Harrington Road, SW7.
January 14.

University election

From Professor Anthony Mortimer
Sir, What is a university chancellor? A public Somebody who honours official ceremonies with his or her presence? If so, there is no good reason why Princess Anne should not serve as well as any other equestrian figure, but it hardly seems a serious worth voting on. Or is the Chancellor someone, not necessarily academic, who has the intellectual competence and prestige to speak to and for the university when the need arises? The Princess does not fit the bill. Nor does Mr Jones. Mr Mandela,

even if he were in a position to speak, has other and more pressing concerns.

Thus, at a time when British universities need the most articulate friends they can get, London has obviously let the side down. If the Cabinet reshuffle had taken place earlier, one might have appealed to Mr St John-Stevens. As it is, I can only hope that the electors will demonstrate their sanity by mass abstention.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY MORTIMER,
University of Fribourg,
CH-1700 Fribourg,
Switzerland.
January 14.

Citizenship implications

From Mr Ernest Pendrous
Sir, In your leading article today ("Three classes of citizen", January 15) you say: "... the mere possibility that a few million people in the overseas dependencies might sometime wish to take up their right of entry would be liable to feed irrational fears."

Why is it not valid seemingly that the possibility of such immigration (no matter how remote) can be a matter for rational concern?

Yours faithfully,
ERNEST PENDROUS,
2 Twyford Court,
Twyford Avenue, W3.
January 15.

Coverage of Sutcliffe case

From Mr Ludovic Kennedy
Sir, I very much doubt whether the reports of the Sutcliffe case that have appeared in the press and television will in any way influence any jury that may in the future be empanelled to hear a case against him. Juries are well able to distinguish between what they hear in court and what they may have heard or read in the media months beforehand.

What is often more prejudicial to an accused's case is the practice in English (though not Scottish) courts of prosecuting counsel opening his case by telling the jury what he hopes to prove against the accused, and what in the event he sometimes fails to prove.

A good example of this occurred in the Stephen Ward trial. In his opening speech Mr Griffith-Jones made a number of highly damaging allegations against Ward, few of which were supported by subsequent evidence. That the jury at the end of the day found Ward guilty on two counts of living off the immoral earnings of Christine Keeler and Mandy Rice-Davies can only be explained, in my view, by Mr Griffith-Jones having so blackened Ward's character that the jury were unable to distinguish between what he said he would prove and what he did prove.

Yours, etc.
LUDOVIC KENNEDY,
3 Upper Dean Terrace,
Edinburgh 4.
January 16.

Hot under collar

From Mrs M. Barrow
Sir, I have read with interest the protracted correspondence in your columns concerning stiff white collars, and think my observations may be of some interest.

With the advent of Chinese restaurants and later "takeaways", many, if not all, Chinese laundries have now disappeared and with them many of the handed-down skills of laundering.

As the daughter of a laundry owner I can well recall the many processes to which stiff collars were subjected before being passed as ready. After washing and starching the collars were smoothed out individually by hand and threaded on to wires for drying. They were then packed between damp sheets and weighted down.

When they had reached the right degree of dampness, they were then pressed by a hand-operated roller until they had acquired a high gloss and smoothness. Lastly, the piece de résistance, when the collars were curled into a circular shape with a flat iron; a skill I was never able to master, although I tried on many occasions.

I trust this throws some light on the subject.

Yours faithfully,
M. BARROW,
Bryn Hyfryd,
Marford Hill,
Marford,
Wrexham,
Clwyd.
January 16.

Fate of listed buildings

From the Secretary of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England)
Sir, Hardly has the dust settled from the unauthorized stripping of the bottom on page 2 under the somewhat equivocal title, "Goldsmith case appeal fails". Do you believe that this title would indicate to the average reader that I had won or lost the case?

It is clear, however, that some people think that they can treat this law with contempt, and so I would like to appeal to those others who may wish to demolish a "listed" building, but at the same time believe in observing the law: to contact us at this address before they do so. They will then have the double satisfaction of providing for posterity a better record of our heritage than would otherwise be available and of acting as good citizens.

Yours faithfully,
P. J. FOWLER,
Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England),
Fortress House,
23 Savile Row, W1.

Voice from the past

From Sir John Barran
Sir, The most noticeable feature of RSM Britain's voice was its penetrating quality, which he achieved by making it very high, rather than a roar. Its effectiveness was demonstrated on parade at Mons one day in the 1950s when a small aeroplane buzzed noisily over the barrack square whilst we were at drill below.

Inflating his lungs to their fullest extent he cried: "Get out of my sky!"—and the aeroplane obligingly altered course.

What a man.

Yours most impressed,
JOHN BARRAN,
17 St Leonard's Terrace, SW2.

AMORY
tive Chance
chequer

Fiat plans new
range of
trucks for UK
market, Page 18

Stock markets

FT Ind 458.6 up 5.0 pts
FT Gilt 88.3 unchanged

Sterling

\$2.4195 up 125 points
Index 80.2 up 0.1

Dollar

Index 66.8 down 0.1
DM 2.0060 down 15 pts

Gold

\$363.50 down \$4

Money

3 month sterling 14 1/4
3 month Euro-S 18 1/2-18 3/4
6 month Euro-S 17 1/2-17 3/4

Exchange delay on current cost accounts

The Stock Exchange Council voted yesterday to postpone its requirement that listed companies should produce current cost accounts (CCA) alongside conventional historic figures.

Originally the Stock Exchange had ruled that companies should produce current cost figures at both the half-year and full-year stage starting this year.

Because of objections, and the Inland Revenue's decision not to have its stock relief proposals on CCA figures, the council shelved its plans for producing interim CCA figures for a year last November.

Uncertainties over CCA have led the Stock Exchange to put off a decision on full year CCA figures for 12 months.

Trident profits up

Trident Television, the commercial Independent Broadcasting Authority has ordered to take control of Yorkshire Television and Tyne-Tees, raised its turnover from £64.45m to £90m and pretax profits from £7.51m to £9.13m in the year to last September. The gross dividend rises from 4.26p to 5.72p a share.

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Refinery talks

Talks were held in London yesterday between senior management of Tate and Lyle and representatives of the shop floor action committee at their Loughborough refinery in Loughborough, amid growing speculation that the plant could be facing closure with the loss of 1,500 jobs.

Dumping appeal

Asahi Chemical Co. has appealed against a United States International Trade Commission ruling that it "dumped" its synthetic fibres in the American market, a company official said in Tokyo.

Continuing decline

Sales by builders' merchants during November were down by almost 24 per cent on the same month in 1979. Monthly sales have been dropping since last February.

Itel bankruptcy

In the San Francisco bankruptcy court, Judge Lloyd King has appointed a creditors' committee for Itel Corporation and set a meeting of creditors for February 24.

Swedish bank rate up

Sweden today raises its bank rate by two points to 12 per cent. The last change was on January 18 last year, when the rate went up by one point.

Quango abolished

Keith Joseph, the Industry Secretary, announced the abolition of the Waste Management Advisory Council, established six years ago.

Wall Street down

The Dow Jones industrial average closed at 950.68, down 20.31 on Wall Street yesterday. Some experts suggested that the Presidential "post-inauguration blues" and a let-down after the hotboxes flew out of Iran were responsible for the drop.

PRICE CHANGES

Rises		Falls	
J. Brown	5p to 6 1/2p	Boustead	5p to 10 1/2p
Couch Grp	8p to 15 1/2p	Guille Corp	15 1/2p to 60p
Dowty Grp	8p to 19 1/2p	Hammerley	6p to 16 1/2p
Global Nat Res	15p to 43 1/2p	Inveresk	11p to 33 1/2p
Johnson & F	1p to 18p	MIM Higgs	5p to 19 1/2p

Falls

Boustead	5p to 10 1/2p	Multihed	25p to 75p
Guille Corp	15 1/2p to 60p	Peko Wallend	25p to 44 1/2p
Hammerley	6p to 16 1/2p	Western Mining	12p to 25 1/2p
Inveresk	11p to 33 1/2p	Weeks Petrol	15p to 41 1/2p
MIM Higgs	5p to 19 1/2p	Viakomica	10p to 26 1/2p

THE POUND

	Bank	Bank	Bank
	buys	buys	buys
Australia \$	2.15	Norway Kr	13.07
Austria Sch	33.70	Portugal Esc	135.00
Belgium Fr	80.25	South Africa Rd	2.06
Canada \$	2.34	Spain Ptas	166.50
Denmark Kr	16.40	Sweden Kr	11.30
Finland Mk	8.28	Switzerland Fr	4.53
France Fr	11.47	USA \$	2.47
Germany DM	4.99	Yugoslavia Dnr	85.00
Greece Dr	127.00		
Hongkong \$	12.80		
Ireland Pd	1.34		
Italy Lira	2420.00		
Japan Yen	514.00		
Netherlands Gld	5.41		

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

Arguments over funding put EEC steel industry quotas at risk

By Peter Hill
Industrial Editor

Disagreements have emerged among EEC governments over the funding of social payments to steelworkers made redundant as a result of restructuring of the industry.

The arguments could lead to further problems over measures introduced by the EEC Commission to stabilize the industry through a system of production quotas and controls on steel imports.

Last year, amid deepening crisis in the European steel industry and the failure of the main steel producers to agree on a voluntary production curbs aimed at reducing over production and lifting prices, the Commission took the unprecedented step of invoking Article 58 of the Treaty of Paris which gives it the power to impose production quotas, although eventually the Germans reluctantly agreed to accept the emergency measures which are fixed to run to the end of June.

But the amount of funds paid into the budget of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC), which is geared to a levy on production, has fallen short of the calls made on the budget for readaptation payments made to redundant steelworkers.

The British and French steel industries have been the major beneficiaries—£58m has so far been paid out to United Kingdom steelworkers in the form of income support benefits.

As part of the overall package incorporated in the "manifesto" measures, the EEC proposed further assistance from the ECSC towards the cost of helping workers affected by contraction of the industry. This aid was designed to cover payments for early retirements, and some short time working.

The Commission attempted to secure the additional finance by transfer from the general EEC budget to the ECSC budget, and the United Kingdom has already lodged a claim for £85m as a Community contribution.

West Germany, which accounts for more than 30 per cent of Community steel production, has insisted that the Commission produce a progress report on restructuring of the industry throughout the Community. That study will be considered by government officials from all the member states at a meeting in Brussels later this week, as a preliminary to further discussions of the social funding and steel industry problems at next month's meeting of the Council of Ministers.

But underlying this argument over funding is the anxiety that the Commission may find it impossible to secure the objective of the "manifesto" plan by the end of June.

Within the steel industry in the United Kingdom, there is a growing feeling that the measures will have to be extended for a further period, although Viscount Eversley, Minister of State for Industry, has expressed optimism that the industry could return to voluntary cutbacks by then.

Maintenance of a strict code on production quotas and their enforcement forms a significant assumption of the British Steel Corporation's survival plan now before the Government, which is based on improved market conditions, improved prices, a rolling-back of the share of the United Kingdom market held by foreign steel, and an increased level of competitively-priced exports.

However, trading continued over the weekend to further closures and redundancies. This means that losses in the second half of 1980 will have been much greater than in the first half.

Mr Thomas Corrigan, Inveresk chairman, said there had been over 600 redundancies during 1980, bringing the group's workforce down to about 2,000.

Apart from redundancy costs, there have also been further heavy write-offs of fixed assets in the second half. Because of the recession in the paper and printing industries, Inveresk's Carronvale mill has produced poor operating results, and the group has suffered from high interest charges on borrowings which have increased during the year.

Georgia-Pacific is based in Portland, Oregon, and had sales of \$5,200m in 1979 and net income of \$327m. It is capitalized at roughly \$2,500m.

Financial Editor, page 19

US bid for lossmaking Inveresk paper group

By Peter Wilson-Smith
Georgia-Pacific Corporation, the United States forest products group, has made an agreed 35p a share bid for Inveresk Group. The bid values Inveresk's ordinary share capital at £7.1m.

Inveresk, the loss-making paper, packaging and stationery group, announced last week talks were under way and might lead to an offer. Since then its shares have risen from 24 1/2p to as high as 35p, although they closed 1 1/2p lower at 33 1/2p yesterday.

Georgia-Pacific is offering Inveresk shareholders either cash, Georgia-Pacific common stock or a mixture of both. It is also offering 50p in cash for the first cumulative preference shares and 15p cash for the second cumulative preference shares.

Directors of Inveresk, advised by S. G. Warburg, the merchant bankers, are recommending the offer and accepting in respect of their own 19,125 ordinary shares.

However, Mr Edward Nassar, one of Inveresk's main shareholders, with nearly 14 per cent, was reported yesterday as being unhappy with the terms.

The bid is conditional on Inveresk's losses before tax but including extraordinary items not exceeding £7m. An estimate of the losses for 1980 will be included in the formal offer document.

Inveresk made a loss of £1.6m in the first half of 1980 and passed the interim dividend. Half this loss was accounted for by write-offs and closure costs.

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Rowe Rudd to abandon broking and widen financial services

By Ronald Pullen
Changes in stockbroking over the next few years have led Rowe Rudd, one of the City's more flamboyant firms, to seek out a new future in corporate financial services.

The three-partner firm announced yesterday that it would cease to trade as a stockbroker and would concentrate on the proposed referral of the Stock Exchange rule book to the Restrictive Practices Court next year could lead to the sort of commission cutting and "unbundling" of stockbroking services that had happened on Wall Street.

He denied that it was purely financial pressures that had forced the decision on the firm, but it was a blow to Rowe Rudd when its three-man oil team defected to Fiske & Co. two years ago.

Rowe Rudd has been a member of the Stock Exchange since 1969. The firm has 35-40 full-time employees, as well as several who work for it on commission. Around half the staff will be offered jobs in the revamped company.

As with other brokers, Rowe Rudd has been steadily encroaching into the corporate finance sphere. It also has Middle East contacts which Mr Tony Rudd hopes to develop.

Rowe Rudd's move is likely to increase speculation that another round of stockbroking mergers is on the way.

Rumours persist of informal talks between a number of firms as brokers generally grapple with the problem of rising costs, static commission charges for the last two years and the likelihood of a much quieter period in both gilts and equity turnover in the year ahead.

New policy urged for electronics industry

By Our Technology Editor

Britain needs an effective national industrial policy for the electronics industry which would draw on the lessons from Japan, West Germany, France and the United States, according to the reconstituted Economic Development Committee for the Electronics Industry.

At its first meeting at the National Economic Development Office yesterday, the committee discussed the present problems of the industry, the performance of its competitors, and specific proposals for action.

Sir Henry Chilver, Vice-Chancellor of Cranfield Institute of Technology and chairman of the reconstituted committee, said after the meeting yesterday that to establish an effective strategy or policy for the industry was the group's prime objective.

The committee was proposing as a specific scheme for government backing a collaborative public sector and private sector demonstration project involving a comprehensive installation of advanced communication services in a particular community.

Sir Henry said that the United Kingdom electronics market had doubled, in real terms, over the past ten years. Output, also, had almost doubled, and this had been achieved with a constant workforce. Import penetration had increased from 20 per cent to 60 per cent, and this needed to be watched carefully.

Within the National Economic Development Office, the emphasis in electronics in recent years has been on the detailed work of the NEDO sector working parties, three of which (plus a recently formed special committee) are relevant to the electronics industry. These are the working parties covering computers, electronic capital equipment and electronic consumer goods; and the information technology committee.

Now, by contrast, Sir Henry's committee will aim to examine the strengths and weaknesses of the electronics industry as a whole, and to try to establish a plan of action for the medium-term future.

Though the sector working parties have been active in monitoring their respective specialized areas, the need to establish an overall policy framework has become urgent in view of the fast rate of technological change in electronics and the phenomenon of "convergence" between different branches of the industry.

No single country showed the correct pattern in electronics policy for Britain to follow. Sir Henry said yesterday. But each of those examined—Japan, West Germany, France and the United States—was performing better than this country.

The last administration's forecasts pointed to a budget deficit in the year starting on October 1 of £27,500m on public spending outlays of £79,300m.

China banks launch credit cards

Hongkong, Jan 20.—China joined the credit card generation today by issuing its first plastic money.

The cards, known in Chinese as Prosperity Card and in English as Federal Card, are being issued by the state-owned Nanyang Commercial Bank and usage is restricted to China, Hongkong and the nearby Portuguese colony of Macao.

A bank spokesman said the credit cards were for the convenience of increasing numbers of visitors to China. Holders would be able to draw cash up to \$1,000 in Chinese currency from Bank of China branches in Shanghai, Peking, Canton, Tianjin and Hangzhou.

The bank said that accounts will be settled in Hongkong currency. Like other Western credit cards, the new cards are accepted by shops, department stores and restaurants.

Applicants for cards are required to have an annual income of not less than about £3,300.

Chinese living in China are ineligible for the cards.—AP-Dow Jones.

Three-day week for Land-Rover at Solihull

By Clifford Webb
Midland Industrial Correspondent

Short-time working affecting so much of the car industry has reached BL's Land-Rover plant at Solihull where 1,200 workers have been put on to a three-day week, which could last for several months.

A Land-Rover spokesman said: "While car factories everywhere have been on short-time for months past, we have been able to maintain five-day working. But with 80 per cent of our production going overseas, it was inevitable that the recession would begin to bite sooner or later."

Two sections are affected. Production of Range Rovers and kits of parts for the 25 Land-Rover assembly plants overseas is continuing on a five-day basis. Kits account for 40 per cent of our production, so we are still doing a lot better than most car makers."

But the introduction of short-time has raised union fears that redundancies will follow in the spring. Mr Michael Hodgkinson, managing director of Land-Rover, has told shop stewards that while redundancies are not necessary at present, he cannot give a guarantee for the future. Everything would depend on demand.

Land-Rover is in the middle of a £225m investment programme designed to increase output by 75 per cent. Despite the slump, it is pressing ahead to be in a position to market aggressively when sales recover.

A new £20m assembly works will begin producing Range Rovers within the next few weeks. It will double the present capacity of 300 a week, and will be accompanied by a major advertising programme to inform motorists that for the first time since the big cross-country vehicle was launched 10 years ago it can now be bought "off the shelf."

Vauxhall vote: A meeting of 1,100 of the 4,500 AUEW members at Vauxhall's Ellesmere Port plant on Merseyside last night voted to reject "wholeheartedly" a plan for 5,900 redundancies throughout the company.

Ellesmere Port is expected to provide 2,900 of the job losses. The remainder will be at plants in Luton and Dunstable, which are also facing a similar situation. A factory to take the lead in any stand against the company.

Mr Dave Thompson, the AUEW convenor at Ellesmere Port, said he would be putting his members' views to Vauxhall chiefs tomorrow.

Studies are to be launched to find ways of slowing the growth of welfare entitlement programmes that are at present directly linked to the consumer price index.

All new cabinet secretaries are under firm orders from the White House to reduce waste in their departments and eliminate duplicating regulations.

Latest indicators set back hopes of economic upturn

By David Blake
Economics Editor

Government hopes that the economy will start to expand in the spring received a jolt from the latest set of cyclical indicators published by the Central Statistical Office yesterday. However, the indications that an upturn will not occur until later in the year were tentative and go against other

indications from the cyclical series.

The short-term leading indicators for November dropped to 94.2, sharply lower than the figure in October. A drop in the level of car registrations was the main cause.

Ministerially, the shorter leading indicators show that the economy has reached bottom about seven months before the drop in output actually ends.

If this traditional relationship holds, the latest figures suggest that output will still be falling by June.

However, in recent periods this relationship has been erratic and it could be that the shorter leading indicators are failing to pick up signs of the recovery. The index for longer leading indicators rose in November yet again, continuing the

rise which started in November, 1979.

If this indicator turns out to be the correct guide to economic movements, then a trough of the recession can be expected some time in the spring. But the CSO stresses that the lags on these indicators are such that recovery could be postponed until much later in the year.

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New town offers stimulating atmosphere for high technology companies Warrington to build another 'science park'

The evocative phrase "science park" emerged again yesterday with the news that Warrington New Town is to build a second one, so successful has its first version been. The concept—to attract high-technology companies to cluster together in a campus-like atmosphere, and indeed often in proximity to a university campus—is not new, but has been slow to take root successfully in Britain.

It was a fashionable idea 10 or more years ago, when various attempts began to be made to emulate the successful science-park enterprises of the United States. Warrington's inclusion of a science park in its several separate industrial employment areas as part of the new town development is one of the few that have succeeded in this country.

Other successful ones are at Cambridge and at Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh. One which started well but faded away in its original form was at Peterlee. Warrington's decision to build a second science park for high-technology companies is part of a continued expansion of industrial capacity in the area. Despite the recession, the town exceeded its job-creation target of 1,500 jobs in 1980, for the third consecutive year, by creating employment for 2,200 people.

The town's first science park, at Birchwood, is now almost complete. All available building land has been taken up, though there is still space available in the park's Genesis building, which provides leased communal facilities for science-based companies.

Companies on the park include British Nuclear Fuels, Data General, Digital Equipment Corporation, Engineering Polymers, MacVal, Transax Owen, Carborundum and Instrumentation Laboratory (UK). In the Genesis building the tenants include LSI Computers, Varian Associates and Control Data Corporation.

Birchwood Science Park, one of four employment areas within Warrington

Trade official's Soviet trip heralds change of attitude

By David Spanier

A senior official from the Department of Trade is to visit Moscow early next week, with the aim of reviving Anglo-Soviet commercial relations and preparing the way for a meeting at ministerial level in London in May.

The trip by Mr Gavin Dick, Under-Secretary for Trade, announced yesterday, is the first inter-governmental meeting on trade to take place since the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

As such, it represents a distinct change of attitude by the Foreign Office, as regards dealings with the Soviet Union.

Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, in his original announcement of restrictions taken after the Soviet invasion, stated that "the Government's view is that all trade should be pursued on a basis of mutual advantage."

The Department of Trade said yesterday that Mr. Dick was going to discuss "the basic issues", not only to encourage trade between the two countries but also to review the possibility of arranging a ministerial meeting of the Joint Commission on British and Soviet Economic and Industrial Cooperation. This last has not been fixed yet but seems likely.

The restrictions imposed after the Afghanistan invasion and which are still operative, included non-renewal of the British-Soviet credit agreement of 1975, and the EEC decision to curb grain exports.

Trade has been languishing, it is felt, and with European competition being renewed, Britain does not want to be left behind, an official said yesterday.

Kenneth Owen

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Battle over
Denmark's
oil industry,
page 19

Mr Reagan aims for industrial revival

From Frank Vogt
United States Economics Correspondent

Washington, Jan 20

President Ronald Reagan in his inaugural speech left no doubt that he is determined to push through a big economic programme as his first domestic policy priority. A whole series of proposals will be sent to the Congress within a few weeks.

To underline the urgency of the Office of Management and Budget's task, Mr David Stockman, the Presidential economic adviser, will deliver a detailed speech to the National Press Club tomorrow.

President Reagan declared that on reforming the budget "we are going to begin to act today."

The President vowed that his first priority will be to revive American industry, get the Government out of the way, within its means and reduce the tax burden on all Americans. He said his Administration would remove "the roadblocks that have reduced productivity."

Repeatedly he said that he would not tolerate the amassing of ever greater Federal budget deficits.

The new President takes office almost one-third the way through the present fiscal year, which is seeing a budget deficit of approximately \$55,000m (\$22.5 billion), after a deficit of \$59,600m in the last year.

The Reagan Administration's economic team, headed by Mr Donald Regan, the Secretary of the Treasury, and Mr Stockman, is searching for more than \$40,000m cuts in this year's public spending. At the same time it is striving to put together tax cuts amounting to over \$30,000m.

The new President is not only demanding that his economic advisers quickly design measures to alter this year's fiscal picture, but that at the same time they should start on the 1982 fiscal year that President Carter sent to the Congress last week.

The last administration's forecasts pointed to a budget deficit in the year starting on October 1 of \$27,500m on public spending outlays of \$79,300m.

It is widely expected that the new White House team will propose hefty cuts this year and next in social welfare spending, but particularly as it is probable that in their revised budget plans they will propose increases in defence spending.

The new economic strategy is built upon the belief that tighter fiscal policies, combined with a continuation of tight money policies, over the next two to three years will bring the present double-digit inflation down to acceptable levels, while at the same time a loss of governmental measures will spur productivity and secure substantial real economic growth.

An array of tax measures are under consideration to boost productivity. It is almost certain that President Reagan will soon propose better valuation allowances and more generous investment tax credits. Cuts in capital gains taxes may be recommended and to boost savings interest income on savings of up to \$1,000 a person may be made free of tax.

Studies are to be launched to find ways of slowing the growth of welfare entitlement programmes that are at present directly linked to the consumer price index.

All new cabinet secretaries are under firm orders from the White House to reduce waste in their departments and eliminate duplicating regulations.



Record exports for Toyota and Nissan

Toyota and Nissan have reported from Tokyo record exports and production for 1980.

Toyota said vehicle exports rose 29 per cent last year to a record 1.78 million from 1.38 million in 1979, while Nissan said exports last year were a record 1.47 million, up 29 per cent from 1.15 million.

Toyota exported 704,600 vehicles to the United States last year, up 14.1 per cent and 128,300 to Saudi Arabia, up 19.1 per cent.

Nissan said it shipped 615,000 to the United States, up 23.5 per cent and 102,800 to Britain, down 7.8 per cent.

NSW coal project

The New South Wales state government has approved the formation of a company to finance and construct a \$A230m (about £113m) coal loader at Kooragang island, Newcastle, Mr Neville Wran, the Premier, said in Sydney. The state will take a 20 per cent stake in the scheme.

US building starts

New building starts, one of the key United States indicators, dropped 1 per cent in December, while 9 per cent fewer building permits were issued, the Commerce Department said in Washington. This was the first fall in building starts since May. The decline was attributed to high interest rates.

Finnair buys DC10

Finnair, the Finnish national airline, has announced the purchase of a new intercontinental range McDonnell Douglas DC-10 series 30 Tri-jet aircraft as a part of a growth programme including a service to Los Angeles.

US merchant fleet

The United States merchant fleet increased by a million tons last year to 24 million tons with 727 vessels, the Commerce Department announced in Washington. American shipyards had orders for or were producing 40 ships totalling 1,500,000 tons.

After a year of declining sales, Iveco hopes for a change of fortune

Turbo-truck drive into UK market

Iveco, Europe's second largest heavy truck maker, which suffered estimated losses of \$50m (£22m) last year, is hoping for a significant turnaround in its fortunes in 1981 and aims to oust Volvo as the leading importer into the United Kingdom.

The company, like most European premium truck manufacturers, is putting on a brave face after a year which has seen a big decline in sales and a fierce price-cutting war that looks set to continue throughout the next few months.

Iveco, owned by Fiat of Italy and set up in 1974 as the first pan-European commercial vehicle company, is soon to launch a new range of turbo-charged trucks with which it hopes to carve a greater slice of a diminishing market. In doing so, it joins Leyland Vehicles, which has just begun a big European sales drive for its award-winning T45 Roadtrain truck and is due to introduce a medium-weight version in the next few days.

Mercedes-Benz and Volvo, big names in the heavy truck sector, are among others who will bring new products to the market in the coming weeks and will join in the battle for the favours of the Continent's road hauliers and fleet operators.

The strategy adopted by truck manufacturers is two-pronged: the introduction of lighter weight, more economical vehicles,

often equipped with turbo-charged engines, and a concentration on driver comfort and ease and cheapness of servicing.

The fight for sales in Europe is expected to be particularly intense. The London-based Economic Models Group forecast recently that after a five per cent drop in 1980, total commercial vehicle sales in the major European markets of The Netherlands, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom would decline by a further 8.4 per cent this year to just over 894,000. The next peak in the demand cycle is predicted to occur in 1984, with total sales of nearly 1.1m.

In Britain the state of the market is far more gloomy. Total commercial vehicle sales were down by 11.4 per cent last year, with the heavy end of the market being the worst afflicted. Registrations of big trucks and articulated units were down 23 per cent against 1979 and in December alone suffered a fall of 47 per cent on a year earlier.

Against this backdrop, attention has once again been focused on the apparent over-supply of lorries in Europe (there are at least 16 heavy truck manufacturers) and on the arguments for further rationalization and mergers.

Iveco was formed from the commercial

vehicle interests of Fiat, OM, Unic, Lancia and Magirus Deutz in a bid to combat competition not only from Mercedes, the market leader in heavy trucks, but also from America and Japan. Iveco executives said this week that potential new partners for the group would always be considered, as would the possibility of establishing assembly plants in other countries, particularly the United States and China.

But it is thought that the most likely attempts at rationalization will be through greater collaboration on the development and production of components similar to the deal concluded last year between Leyland Vehicles and Zahnradfabrik Friedrichshafen (ZF) of West Germany, the world's leading manufacturer of gearboxes.

Last year, Iveco sold 2,459 heavy trucks in Britain (3,796 in 1979) while Volvo and Mercedes had the same sales total of 2,984. In 1979, Volvo was the leading importer with sales of 4,052.

Falling sales have led to a spate of discounting throughout Europe and many customers are being offered price reductions of up to 18 per cent. Italy, which has a home market largely protected against imports, is one of the few countries to escape the worst effects of the price war.

Edward Townsend

Call for curb on 'excess' money stock

By Our Financial Staff

The excess growth in the money supply over the past eight months should not be allowed to stay in the system, Mr Greenwell, the banking firm argues in the latest edition of its *Monetary Bulletin*.

The brokers suggest that if the authorities do not take action to remove the excess money, then it will eventually work its way into prices.

At the moment, however, Greenwell believes that the trough of the present recession is unlikely to occur before the middle of the year, and that the authorities still have time to remove the "excess" money, which is mainly represented by the high level of liquid personal sector savings.

If inflation is to be prevented from rebounding, the brokers say that the personal sector must be persuaded to switch its short term money holdings into longer term investments.

This could be done in three ways: by pressing sales of existing debt instruments, such as National Savings and Grannys Bonds; by experimenting with new debt instruments, such as 12 month Treasury bills, and an extension of indexing. Greenwell put the underlying rate of growth in sterling M3 between April and December at 14 per cent, or an annual rate of 22 per cent.

50 per cent rate rises unthinkable, CBI says

By John Huxley

Business leaders yesterday gave a warning that further large rate rises by local authorities will lead to many more jobs lost and cuts in investment.

The Confederation of British Industry said that forecasts of an average rate rise of about 20 per cent, and rises of up to 50 per cent in some areas, were "unthinkable".

Business confidence was already being adversely affected. It calculated that the rate burden on business is likely to be equivalent to one third or more of the real profits earned by industrial and commercial companies in the United Kingdom during the present financial year.

"Many businesses just cannot afford to pay more," Mr John Monkman, chairman of the CBI's rating and valuation committee, told a conference on rating held in London. "In the current financial year, business rates have increased by an average of 25 per cent. In some areas the increase is as much as 30 to 40 per cent. A further 20 per cent next year is unthinkable."

Mr Monkman said that rates now represented the second heaviest impost on business, which was expected to meet 45 per cent of the total national rate bill in 1981-82. In other words, businesses must find £4,200m—which on its own is equivalent to a whole array of government taxes.

Rate rises have been the subject of a sustained campaign by the CBI in recent months. It has also been seeking a cut in the National Insurance surcharge levied on company payrolls and moves to reduce the burden on rising energy costs on industry, as well as a further reduction in interest rates.

The rates campaign has so far commanded relatively little national attention, but has been vigorously prosecuted by the CBI's regional groups. Apart from acting as local "watchdogs", they have attempted to alert the public to the reasons behind rate rises, and in some cases offered to check local authority bookkeeping, working through rates liaison groups.

The CBI has argued for some time that business is bearing the brunt of the Government's counter-inflation policies. For every 12 people in 1,000 made redundant in the private sector, fewer than one in 1,000 had lost their jobs in the public sector. At the same time, many of the CBI's members are anxious to ensure that capital projects, rather than current spending on salaries and wages, do not bear a disproportionate share of expenditure cut backs by public authorities. The construction industry, for example, is by tradition heavily dependent on the public sector for contracts and does not want to see these pared further.

Enterprise zone for the North

By Peter Hill

The Government is expected to announce shortly the location of a site for a tenth enterprise zone in the North of England.

Efforts to secure the development of the enterprise zone concept—launched by Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer in the March Budget last year—were taken a stage further yesterday with an announcement by Mr Tom King, Minister for Local Government and Environmental Services.

Mr King said that formal invitations had been issued to the City of Salford, Trafford Metropolitan District Council and the Greater Manchester Borough to prepare enterprise zone schemes.

These are the first zones in England for which statutory invitations have been issued, although a formal invitation was made last month for a detailed scheme in the lower Swansea Valley.

The Salford-Trafford zone will occupy nearly 800 acres of Salford Docks and Trafford Park in Greater Manchester. The Trafford zone will cover about 540 acres in the Blackbrook Valley in the West Midlands.

Other possible zones under consideration include Clydebank, Belfast, Corby, Speke on Merseyside, Newcastle and Gateshead and the Isle of Dogs in London's dockland.

Oracle move to charge advertisers

Independent Television is formulating plans to sell advertising on its teletext service, Oracle, after April this year.

The new service is expected to raise about £5m each year for Oracle by the end of 1984, although it is still early to assess the response of advertisers.

At the moment advertising appears without charge as part of an information service. In future advertisers will buy pages. The change in the Oracle service results from two clauses in the new Broadcasting Act. These clauses take effect from February 1 and effectively allow the service to raise revenue through advertising, although the limit within which that can be done has not been clearly defined.

Management at Oracle is awaiting a decision from the Home Office which will define how much advertising will be allowed. The management has asked that it be allowed to devote 15 per cent of the total number of pages to advertising and also be allowed to sell "two-line slogans" at the bottom of most of the remaining editorial pages.

There is no question of editorial pages being sponsored by advertising, according to the Oracle management. The request for 15 per cent of the teletext service's 400 pages to be devoted to advertising was thought justified. It compares favourably with that allowed on television—six minutes in every hour (10 per cent)—similar to commercial radio with nine minutes (15 per cent).

Oracle is also awaiting the Home Office decisions on whether the teletext service can use two more of the unused 625 lines that transmit television signals. There are in all 20 unused lines of which two are at present being used by Oracle. It wants to have a further one to increase its coverage and another for use by the television regions to improve their own information.

Philippe, the television manufacturer, in its survey on teletext has concluded that a strong local content is needed in the service. At a teletext conference, more of the unused Oracle committed the service to such local content.

The BBC was unable to make that commitment. Cee-fax, it is also thought, highly unlikely that the BBC would use its teletext service as a vehicle for raising revenue, though raising revenue from Cee-fax would interfere little with the programme presentation of the BBC many in the corporation view it as the thin end of the wedge.

Bill Johnstone

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

High priced energy for industry

From Mr A. F. D. Ferguson

Sir, With a debate on energy due in the Commons tomorrow it may now be appropriate to try to concentrate minds on some of the important issues about energy affecting British industry and reply to the points made in your columns by Mr Tony Speller MP on January 13. I fear the arguments he advanced may be the basis of the Government's case in the debate.

My case basically is that a high priced energy policy is excellent if every other competing country acts similarly but if only the United Kingdom pursues it the result is a slow lingering death for large segments of efficient British industry.

About 40 per cent of British industry employing 21 million people use energy in production as opposed to ambient heating. In certain of the key industries in this country, the cost of energy is as high as 30 per cent of the sales value of the product. For some reason I am unable to understand, our elected representatives, including your correspondent, Tony Speller MP, refused to believe that these users in this country are paying on average, 20 per cent more for energy than their competitors on the Continent and more than 20 per cent than in North America.

Reports from independent bodies such as various sector working parties of the National Economic Development Council and the Confederation of British Industry have proved these figures by comparing invoices between identical plants in the various countries to most reasonable peoples' satisfaction. Yet rather than tackle the problem critics argue about the magnitude of the differences. Rather than explore the reasons for the differences, they directly (fuel excise tax) or indirectly (financial targets set for the nationalised industries), they and government advisers talk about subsidies. Similarly,

rather than examine the present market pricing policies of, for example, British Gas Corporation, which ensure that there is no effective competition between fuels; they talk about industry asking for government controls.

I hope that the Commons debate may see some constructive approach—as opposed to this fairly sterile argument. A final thought: in what other country could a bulk user of gas in industry pay 35p a therm to heat its kilns while its employees pay 22p per therm to heat their homes, as happens here in Britain?

Yours faithfully,

A. F. D. FERGUSON, Chief Executive, Boyle & Son Limited, Stonebridge Hill, Stonebridge Lane, Leeds LS12 4QW, January 20.

From Mr Luke Georgeiou

Sir, As Mr Speller (January 13) rightly points out, a major question on the current debate over fuel costs for United Kingdom industry is whether the energy efficiency of British firms is comparable with that of overseas competitors. However, the level of efficiency is as much a consequence of circumstances imposed upon the companies as it is a result of their own actions. This is particularly evident in the argument over gas prices, which have been subject to the policies of successive governments.

A crude measure of efficiency is the ratio between the heat equivalent of the quantity of fuel consumed by an industry and some index of industrial production, generally known as the heat rate/output ratio. Apart from the statistical problems involved in compiling such data, the result is affected by the choice of fuels. For example, conversion of a process from coal or fuel oil to gas normally leads to improved efficiency because the intrinsic qualities of gas make it easier to use a greater proportion of the heat content. This, together with other qualities such as convenience and cleanliness, contributes to give gas a "premium" value over the other fuels. In a normal economic situation the industrialist then assesses whether the increased efficiency justifies the additional cost and, depending upon the size of the premium, a proportion of users will change to gas.

The problems we are faced with at present have their roots in the pricing policies adopted to achieve a rapid build-up of supplies from North Sea gasfields in the early 1970s. Gas was priced so cheaply that many industrial consumers converted who would not have done so otherwise. Now that the price is tending towards world market levels these consumers are finding a certain irreversibility in the change. Storage space for coal may have been disposed of, or the workforce in a foundry, say, may have become used to lower levels of pollution. Thus they find themselves tied to what, for them, are uneconomic fuel. For many industries the life of their fuel-using equipment also has some years to run.

The simple answer is to invest in new equipment to meet the changed circumstances, but the depressed state of many of the industries involved means that the capital is simply unavailable. For some in particular difficulty, such as the paper industry, this has been a long-term problem and, although savings have been made, one wonders whether the full potential available from new equipment has been realized. It is vital that future energy policy should be not only a matter of supply and pricing but should also consider the ability of industry to respond to price changes. In the longer term it should also be seen as involving problems of investment and technological innovation for users as well as suppliers.

Yours faithfully,

L. GEORGIOU, Programme of Policy Research in Engineering, Science and Technology, Department of Liberal Studies in Science, The University, Manchester M13 9 PL.

Stock relief and taxation

From Mr John A. Newman

Sir, The Inland Revenue published (in November 1980) a consultative paper on the future of stock relief and now the CCAB (Consultative Committee of Accountancy Bodies) has replied under the heading *Current cost accounts and taxation*.

Both these papers fail to analyse adequately the faults of the old and new reliefs. Stock relief under both systems arises simply from holding stock in itself. The main beneficiaries tend to be, therefore, supermarket and retail chain owners and others who hold large lines of stock. Furthermore, the larger the enterprise concerned the more able it is by its superior resources to manipulate the amount of stock on hand and hence the relief which accrues to it.

As an accountant I feel that the tax system should not encourage bad business practices. Businesses should keep stocks to the minimum in both volume and value terms consistent with the needs of that business. Both forms of stock relief encourage the holding of more stock to attract relief. A Conservative government should realize this, as should the CCAB.

The old relief accrued to businesses whether the stock concerned was financed by

credit or not. This meant that some businesses which had a rapid trading cycle could receive the relief on stock paid for after the year end. Thus the proposals for the new relief contain restrictions when stock is financed by credit. These are, in my view, anomalous and misconceived. To take an example: if company "X" had borrowed £2m to finance the building of a new factory for expansion and employment of more individuals, as compared with an equivalent company that had not, company "X" would have its stock relief restricted. Is this the best way to formulate a tax relief?

The proposals state that the balance of the old relief will not be clawed back—rather these lucky businesses which have received stock relief over the last few years will receive a windfall. There seems to be no reasons why this should occur.

To conclude, I feel that in this period of recession, high unemployment and technological change, the system of tax reliefs in the United Kingdom should be tailored to encourage the assimilation of technological change and the employment of United Kingdom individuals, the holding of stock.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN NEWMAN, Kingsgate House, 115 High Holborn, London, WC1V 6JJ.

Loans for small business

From Mr A. G. W. Scott

Sir, The experimental government loan guarantee scheme is, of course, welcomed but perhaps one who has spent considerable part of his working life rearing and rescuing "small" businesses may offer a constructive comment.

New businesses, on the whole, do not find insuperable difficulty in raising loan capital if well founded and managed. Their difficulty is nearly always to find the interest and periodic capital repayments out of taxed profits and leave enough behind for the business to grow out of its own resources. True, there may subsequently come a time when further loans are more difficult to obtain because they would form too great a proportion of the whole capital structure, outweighing by too much the proprietors' stake, whether shares or partners' capital.

The cure for both troubles is the same; it is for the Chancellor to devise a scheme for the proprietors of a growing

business, for an initial period, to be untaxed or taxed on a favourable sliding scale, on profits earned which they are prepared to leave in the business as permanent capital. This was how businesses found the means of growth in the days of low rates of tax, and somehow a climate has got to be re-created in which a growing business can feed and grow on itself.

It should not be beyond the wit of a Conservative government, with the avowed intention of helping small businesses, to find a way which will do this without abuse or too much red tape. After all, this would be the Chancellor's own seed corn: little successful businesses grow into big successful businesses, who pay a lot of tax—when they are on their feet.

Yours faithfully,

A. G. W. SCOTT, 5 Breakspear, College Road, Dulwich, London SE21 7NB, January 17.

Drive for lower interest rates

From Mr Edward A. Kalfayan

Sir, Mr Malby's letter (January 5) and the many others, pointing out lower interest rates do not disclose the main counter-argument.

I will borrow any sum up to six figures from him at higher rates than he complains of. Will he lend it to me?

Presumably, he is a borrower. It looks quite different to a lender. At today's interest rates anybody who invests money is still putting it into somebody else's sleeve. From time to time the size of the holes change but there is always a net drain. By the time the principal is returned the erosion of capital by inflation is greater than the net of interest after tax. He knows that. But with so many putting their money on deposit in banks or building societies at 11 per cent or less, no one

can blame him for trying that argument again.

The City, we are told, is currently awash with money. Let it be offered at widely differing rates of interest and create a proper market for different levels of security and risk, then a lot of entrepreneurs with good products and efficient levels of service could obtain loans for expansion and overall economic activity and job creation. And please don't let another bank chairman write that there is money for every good prospect in my experience a pedestrian idea with no without asset backing has more chance than a brilliant one. Banks are frightened of marketing, though it is marketing that Britain desperately needs in a situation of declining world trade. Valuable innovation would prove

market acceptance by large companies but without asset backing still has no friend.

If interest rates really are too high there must be many wishing to lead my company money at today's interest rates—or higher. Please let them go higher still and shake out the underserving borrower with a poor project who would be a success to no good purpose. A few fingers may be burned in the property market, for there the sieves have been held out successfully for so many years that serious distortions have taken place in our productive ability and the country is paying for it now.

Yours faithfully,

EDWARD A. KALFAYAN, Managing Director, Letterstream Limited, 45 Conduit Street, London W1R 9PF.

BL incentives

From Mr Irving Stone

Sir, Having read Mr Penhaligon's letter (January 15) suggesting that the Government promise the workforce of BL that all profits made in the next five years would be distributed among them and then his observation that "the trouble is hardly any British Leyland employee believes it even if they know it will not directly benefit them". I can only confess to a feeling of incredulity when I see that Mr Penhaligon's official title is Liberal Party spokesman for industry.

I trust that this contradictory, confused logic is not representative of his party's other policies. Yours truly,

IRVING STONE, Flat 2, 13 Old Church Street, London, SW3, January 15.

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Exchange markets wait for US policy changes

Ahead of the release of the American hostages and the unfreezing of Iranian financial assets, foreign exchange markets have been quiet and cautious. The general feeling in markets seems to be that the freeing of the Iranian assets is unlikely to lead to any sudden switching of funds in a seriously destabilizing way. For a start, that would hardly be in the Iranians' own interest. There does, however, seem to have been a certain amount of hedging, with sterling one of the main beneficiaries so far.

If the Iranian situation has been uppermost in the market's mind for the past few days, it is, of course, a transient consideration. What markets are really going to have to get to grips with over the coming months is the evolution of the economic policy of the new United States Government.

At the moment we seem to have the prospect of fiscal risk-taking set against a monetary authority confirmed in its resolve to control the monetary aggregates. That at least should make for a fascinating year ahead, and almost certainly a tricky one for investors in dollar markets.

almost as heavy as that incurred when it attempted to force up the department store group's dividend last June.

Is it too much to hope that the pantomime is now over? Having reportedly cost Fraser shareholders £1m so far in defending its decisions against Lomho, Lomho should appreciate that further moves of this kind could be judged rash and not only in the Fraser boardroom.

Followers of Mr Rowland's tactical abilities will naturally maintain that Lomho has only been softening-up Fraser for a final blow—a bid for the 70 per cent of shares it does not already own. That bid may indeed be on its way, but it is hard to see how Lomho's manoeuvres have altered Fraser's market profile as a bid prospect.

Fraser's share price fell 2p to 126p yesterday, where it is worth £190m in the market and still represents a very big bite indeed for Lomho which is capitalized at £248m. Indeed, if a bid had been his intention, Mr Rowland's timing looks badly awry. Fraser claims record trading last Christmas and its balance sheet has been strengthened by the



Mr Rowland, Lomho's chief executive, at yesterday's House of Fraser meeting in Glasgow.

£40m of sale and leaseback deals which Lomho attempted to block.

But whatever its long-term game-plan—if indeed it has one—Lomho must realise that now is the time to "put up or shut up" with regard to its perennial takeover suggestions. It should bid or call off its vendetta and allow Fraser's executives to run the store group if it is not to lay itself open to accusations of "harassment" and irresponsibility.

Inveresk

A foothold for an American

It is clear why Inveresk is recommending the 35p share bid from Georgia-Pacific. It has at best an erratic record—profits peaked at £4.7m pretax in 1974 and have been on a downward trend ever since—and its shareholders saw dividends reduced in both 1978 and 1979 until last year's interim was finally omitted following half-year losses of £1.6m.

The recession in the paper and printing industry has also ensured that Inveresk's results for the second half of 1980 will be much worse than in the first half. There has been further retrenchment and nearly a quarter of the workforce was made redundant during 1980.

So with trading losses and redundancy and closure costs heading for £7m in 1980—and another difficult year in prospect—Inveresk had little choice but to recommend an offer pitched over two-fifths above the market price before the preliminary announcement of talks was made.

Georgia-Pacific, meanwhile, evidently wants a foothold in the European paper industry and has known Inveresk for a long time. It is paying £7.1m compared with assets of perhaps £12m after last year's losses but the puzzle is that the main attraction of Inveresk—much of whose industrial assets are fairly old—is its investment properties valued at £8.3m.

Presumably Georgia-Pacific will sell some of these off to pay off borrowings which will have risen sharply in 1980 from the £6.6m in the 1979 accounts—a course which Inveresk was already considering anyway.

Copenhagen

Legislation to be presented to the Folketing (the Danish parliament) later this month will drastically speed up the exploration and exploitation of Denmark's offshore North Sea oil and gas reserves.

The move follows the decision last month by the Danish Social Democratic minority government to nationalize Denmark's North Sea fields after the breakdown of 10 months of difficult negotiations with A. P. Moeller, the private Danish industrial, shipping and prospecting concern, which at present exercises the concession exclusively.

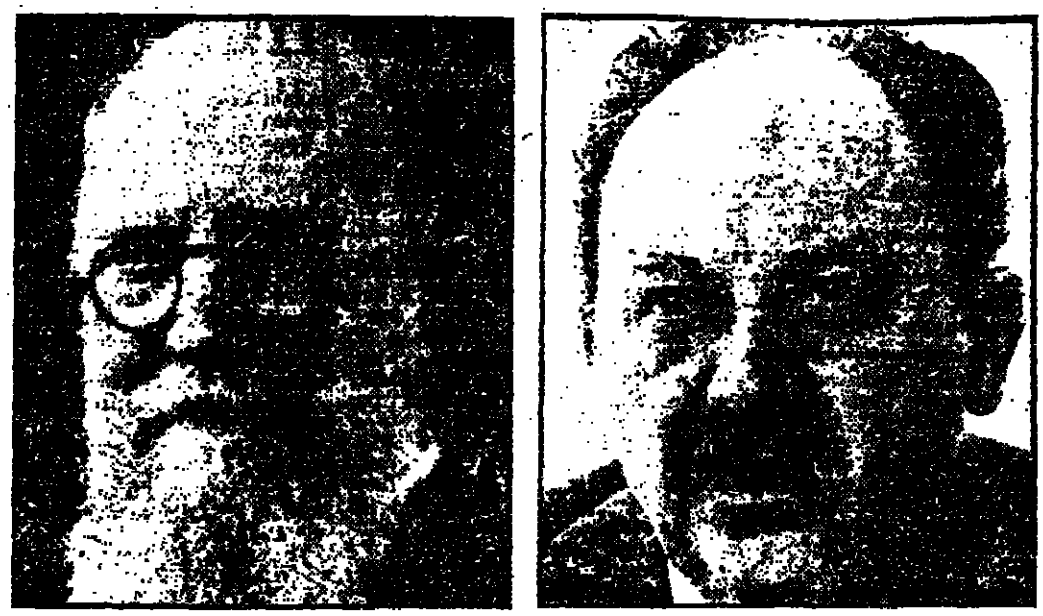
The story of Denmark's North Sea offshore adventure is not without its romantic aspects. In 1932, according to a recently screened Danish television news documentary, Mr Thorvald Stauning, Denmark's first Social Democratic Prime Minister, fell in love with the United States envoy to Denmark, Mrs Ruth Bryan Owen. This led to an American friend of the ambassador, a Mr Frederick F. Ravlin, who was an eccentric engineer and self-styled oil prospector from Miami, landing the entire Danish onshore and offshore underground concession in 1935.

By 1962 the concession had changed hands several times and land back in Danish hands. A. P. Moeller then gaining the entire concession for 50 years by agreement with the then Social Democratic government. In 1962 the full potential of the North Sea as a source of oil and gas energy was not realized.

Dissatisfied with Moeller's slow pace of the exploration of the North Sea offshore areas by Moeller, the (at that time also Social Democratic) government again held talks with the concern in 1976. These resulted in Moeller agreeing to return 10 per cent of the area every five years, starting this year, a process which has already been embarked upon this month.

The latest round of negotiations on greater state control, initiated last February, collapsed irretrievably in mid-December

Takeover battle for Denmark's North Sea oil



Two prime ministers closely involved in the history of the Danish oil fields: left, Mr Thorvald Stauning, whose friendship with the United States was a major factor in the early stages of the concession being given to an American prospector in 1935; right, Mr Anker Jørgensen, the present prime minister, who believes that nationalization is in the country's interest.

after Moeller failed to agree to returning all unexplored offshore areas to the state by 1980, starting with 45 per cent in 1983. The state also insisted on the right to purchase 40 per cent of all oil and gas produced by Moeller, which exercises the concession through the so-called Danish Undergrunds Consortium (DUC) in cooperation with Shell, Standard Oil and Texaco.

DUC has made a small number of oil finds and, as from this year, expects to produce some 2 million tonnes of oil per year from the North Sea.

The parties were also unable to reach agreement about state ownership of an offshore pipeline connecting the fields with the Danish mainland. The legislation will be in four stages, with the government appropriating the area yet unexplored areas of the North Sea which represent 80 per cent of the total Danish North Sea sector and leaving Moeller to exploit the 20 per cent which has been and is exploiting (largely

the south-west area fringing on the German sector, where the so-called Dan Vagn, Nils, Per, Tove, Gorm, Tyra, Roar, Adda and Lulu fields are located).

The next stage will give the state first refusal of half of all oil produced, while the third stage will compel the consortium to use state-owned and operated pipelines to land all North Sea oil. The first three stages of the legislation are to be passed before the summer recess.

The government also plans to present further legislation to parliament next October (stage four), altering Denmark's North Sea taxation and licensing terms to bring them more into line with British and Norwegian practice.

As regards state taxation, DUC is at present liable to pay only an 8.5 per cent royalty and 40 per cent corporate tax in the Danish state. Nor has the block system, such as is in operation in other countries' North Sea offshore fields, yet been intro-

duced for the leasing of areas to prospectors.

New companies will be offered licences in the nationalized area this spring and the Danish Ministry of Energy claims that a dozen have already shown interest. Moeller's reaction to the government's plans has been to threaten to sue for breach of contract and compensation, a claim which could, legal experts say, amount to a multi-million kroner sum.

DUC has to date invested some 6,000m kroner (£424m) in North Sea activities. Years of legal haggling and court cases are expected as Moeller also claims the expropriation, a fact which Mr Anker Jørgensen, the Prime Minister, dismisses on the grounds that the legislation is in the national interest.

By carefully taking over only unexplored areas of the North Sea and leaving Moeller the areas it is working the government hopes to retain any expropriation compensation claim

from the company legally invalid.

Undeterred by the threats of legal action, Mr Jørgensen has also said that the leasing out of the newly nationalized areas of the Danish North Sea to new licensees will go on, regardless of the passing of the new Bill and not be subject to delay.

Backed by leftist parties, the government has a safe majority in parliament for the nationalization legislation, which is also strongly supported by the Liberal and Conservative and other rightist parties for the government to open negotiations with Moeller were firmly rejected as unrealistic by the Prime Minister earlier this month.

Mr Jørgensen has ignored renewed calls this week from a majority of political parties to reopen negotiations with A. P. Moeller, after a statement by the director of the concern in the Conservative newspaper *Bertingste Tidende* last Sunday to the effect that the differences between Moeller and the government over new rules for the North Sea were minimal.

The Prime Minister reiterated yesterday that any new approach would have to come from Moeller and represent a radical improvement on the concern's previous stance, which he did not think was in the offering. Mr Jørgensen added that his government intended to press on with the new legislation, only consulting Moeller where necessary.

Danish North Sea oil output is expected to reach about 40,000 barrels per day in the early part of this decade, a modest yield compared with the 2 million barrels produced daily by Norway and Britain. None the less, when the Danish North Sea gas comes on stream in 1984, the North Sea will be providing 30 per cent of Denmark's total energy needs, rising to almost half by the end of the decade. This will make a vital contribution to the fuel requirements of the otherwise resourceless Denmark and ease the country's balance of payments deficit.

Christopher Follett

Many bargain offers are not what they seem

Shops that are still breaking the law

Robin Young

Many of the bargains offered on January 1st have been, if not false, illegal. A walk down Oxford Street produced 10 windows full of illegal sale price tickets in as many minutes.

Indeed, very few shops can claim to have price marking which complies with the Price Marking (Bargain Offers) Order, 1979, a piece of legislation which has been held by many to be completely unenforceable.

The Department of Trade's explanatory notes—intended to guide enforcement officers through the order's complexities—themselves run to 94 closely typed foolscap pages and even then the advice offered leaves room for doubt about what would and what would not be caught under the order's terms.

Trading standards officers and businessmen alike claimed at the time of its introduction that the order could neither be understood nor enforced.

The order is evidence, however, that the Labour government on the advice of the Director-General of Fair Trading, is beginning to bite.

Though prosecutions under the Trade Descriptions Act have to be notified, no one records centrally those made under the Prices Act and its associated orders. What follows, therefore, is the most comprehensive summary as yet available of successful prosecutions for contraventions of the bargain offers order.

The results go some way to indicate more clearly what really is illegal now that the order is in force. They also show where the order is most likely to be the favourite targets for trading standards departments which do decide to

devote some priority to the order's enforcement.

The principal provisions of the order came into force on July 2, 1979. Eighteen months later there appear to have been 14 successful prosecutions for breaching the order.

The most significant success for the order's champions was certainly the case in west Yorkshire brought against MFI Furniture Centres, one of the companies whose advertising style fuelled the concern that led to the order's introduction.

MFI was fined £500 on each of ten counts arising from advertisements for a "half price" sale, when it was shown that the prices charged were the same before, during and after the sale.

MFI was also among the victims claimed by the zealous enforcement officers in Croydon. There the company was fined £50 on each of three charges arising from a newspaper advertisement showing price comparisons with "normal MFI prices" which had in fact never been charged at the store concerned.

Croydon also chalked up fines of £10 on each of ten charges against a company called Vogue Interiors, which showed price tickets marked "sale without any indication of what the previous price had been."

Implied and unspecified reductions of this kind are the most widespread offences against the Bargain Offers Order at present, but as yet there has been only one other successful prosecution on this score—in Devon where a local trader was fined £25 on each of four counts.

Croydon won a fine of £300 against Eastern Carpet Stores, which claimed to be selling carpet at a 54 per cent reduc-

tion, but had never charged the "usual price" it showed, and a penalty of £100 against Homecraft Retail, which used an illegal comparison with the manufacturers' alleged recommended price on an electrical appliance.

Comparisons with the manufacturer's recommended price are illegal on beds and mattresses, domestic electrical appliances and their counterparts in other fuels, consumer electronic goods, carpets and furniture.

In Tyne and Wear Robert Anthony (Investment Jeweller) was fined £500 on ten charges for price indications on jewellery in which comparisons were made with insurance valuations. Another case will be heard shortly in which the trader is expected to plead guilty, having used tickets saying: "Today's value X our price Y."

Statements which suggest that the retail price indicated is less than the goods are worth are banned by the order, even if what is claimed can be substantiated. A Devon trader had to pay £25 for suggesting that something's "value" was higher than its price.

In Blackburn, Lancashire, a furniture warehouse's advertisements fetched two fines of £10, and in Burton, Norfolk, a stock disposal trader was similarly fined £50 each on two charges, having quoted "normal prices" which were not in fact his own.

If prices elsewhere are quoted the details must be specific and accurate. A firm called Addaxits and its salesmen slipped up on that in

Avon when claiming orally that the three-piece suite which they were selling "would cost £600 at Jolly's in Bath." The claim could not be substantiated and it cost them £50 each.

Diligent work with tape recorders also caught a one-day sale operator in Derbyshire saying "elsewhere you would expect to pay £32 my price is £12" and cost him £25.

In Dorset a market trader was fined £50 for each of four vague oral price claims. The recorder was even more successful in Devon and Kent, where the same mock auctioneer was caught in both counties in full spate with words and value claims ("worth" this, "normally" that, "normally retailing at" and "in a catalogue it would cost"), which cost him £25 on each of 10 charges.

The tally is not overwhelming—14 cases involving 60 charges brought by nine authorities, netting £7,150 in fines—but it shows that trading standards authorities are at last making sense and getting successful prosecutions out of the order. Traders no doubt dislike liability to fines, which could go up to £1,000 on summary conviction, for offences which they might regard as technical, but it appears that in all these cases consumers might have been misled by the sort of price comparisons that were being made.

Advertisers also now have less excuse that they do not understand the provisions of the order. The Advertising Standards Authority suspended the relevant section of the British Code of Advertising Practice shortly after the bargain offers order was introduced, claiming that the code might be brought into irreconcilable conflict with the law.

While the code generally permitted claims which could be substantiated, the bargain offers order prohibited some of them. Equally, some advertisements which would not have been acceptable under the code would not have offended the order.

The difficulty has still not been resolved but Mr Peter Thomson, the ASA's director-general, has now produced and circulated his own guidance notes on the order.

These fill eight pages (and they fill warning that they "do not attempt completeness" and refer to some pitfalls that have been little publicized hitherto. Comparisons with an advertiser's future intended price, for example, must be made precisely when it is proposed to charge the new price. (At the same time it seems doubtful that a prosecution would succeed simply because, in the event, the price was not then increased.)

Mr Thomson's interpretation is also that advertisers cannot compare their present prices with competitors' previous prices, even if the circumstances are precisely the same. He issues a strong warning against unspecific claims, but says that phrases like "up to 50 per cent off" are not necessarily objectionable, though in conjunction with a price claim they might run into trouble with some trading standard authorities.

Business Diary: Novamark's maestros match Metro

John Murphy and Mike Grant are the directors of the company which came up with the name Metro for BL.

That is their biggest "find" to date in seven years of looking for names, although they think they have another good "un coming off in a few weeks with the launch of a disposable razor which on their advice Gillette is to call Slalom.

Murphy and Grant are the men behind Novamark International, whose motto is "We create trademarks all over the world."

BL came to Novamark early in 1979, about 18 months before Metro, then codenamed LCB, was due to be launched.

The problem, Murphy told me yesterday, was not that BL could not find a name, but that it had too many. One of those I heard was rather apt—it was "Termini"—because it could have been the end of the road for BL if Metro had flopped.

BL wanted something short, and that was not rude in any language or "owned" by anybody else.

Four months and £18,000 later Novamark came up with three names, of which Metro was BL's, rather than Novamark's, favourite. Grant thought that Metro was more original and Murphy liked the sportier feel of Match.



Putting a name to the product: John Murphy (left) and Mike Grant, managing director and fellow director of Novamark International in London yesterday.

which are people like Scribble champion David Stirling. The groups had two-hour sessions. Murphy and Grant came into this business through cars: the former was once a marketing man for Dunlop, lunched with finding a name for a new tyre—later appeared after a long search as a trade mark lawyer with the same company.

Finding that employees and advertising agencies can come up with names aplenty, but not the one that is necessarily right either in marketing or legal

times, Murphy and Grant threw in their jobs and their lots together.

They now have offices in London and New York and are trying to break into Japan. They "protect" existing trade marks as well as dreaming them up.

I thought this was what Grant was taking, but it really is the name of a Finnish product for unfreezing car locks, and was introduced in this country. Not to be outdone, Murphy then handed me a packet of Bum, the brand name of some crisps PepsiCo sell in Spain.

Grant, the lawyer, watches over less exotically named brand names for manufacturers such as Mars.

Curiously enough, the name "Novamark" is not one of Murphy and Grant's own. It is an off-the-peg one, if a nice fit for all that, and came to them when they acquired the British business of a French firm that once traded under that name.

I should add, perhaps, that they got my name wrong and called me "Davis" instead of "Davies" in a letter they sent me the other day, but we got that straight when I called on them yesterday.

I have had a letter from the British Printing Industries Federation to say that presentation of the National Business Calendar Awards will be made on Wednesday, January 28, and not on "Wednesday, February 28", as previously advised. Besides being a month out, February 28 is in any case a Saturday, as calendar printers should know. The hapless lady who sent the letter of correction is a Helena Memory.

Of all the parties involved in the hostages drama, the Iranians, the Americans, the British, the Algerians and the British, it was the British who to the last remained the most secretive.

Even as the two emissaries from the Bank of England flew on Friday to Algiers to help with fund transfer problems and new Iranian accounts, the authorities in London only reluctantly admitted that they had gone there at all.

Kit McMahon, the deputy governor at the Bank and David Somerset, the chief cashier, are in their normal roles far from being trouble-shooters.

Kit McMahon, a 53-year-old genial Australian has spent much of his life as an academic economist. His career is not that of a traditional banker. He joined the Bank in 1964 after a spell at the Treasury.

Mr McMahon's reputation at the Bank rose firmly on his international role. In 1976 he was the main negotiator of the \$5,300m sterling rescue package which included support from the Fed and other central banks as well as International Monetary Fund (IMF) backing.

David Somerset, the chief cashier since last year, is the man whose name appears on British banknotes. He is also reputed to be one of the best technical bankers around.

His career is that of a traditional central banker with only a three-year spell at the IMF.

Having noted Kenneth Baker's appointment as Minister of State for Industry and Information Technology, I was naturally interested to know whom he would appoint as his PPS.

In fact, as I learnt yesterday, it is John Lee, who entered the House after last year's general election as the member for Nelson and Colne, although he has been around in Tory politics for much longer, notably as political secretary to Robert Carr.

It was, however, in Lee's business background that I was most interested. The Department of Industry said in a statement that he had founded and later sold out his own quoted group and was a director of a building society, but the civil servants named neither.

It was here that industry and information technology broke down, for nobody at the minister's ministry could supply the missing names.

They are in fact, Chancery Consolidated, which Lee sold out to Argus, Latham six years ago, and the Midlands Building Society.

Out of place: reader P. C. J. Nair writes from Kuala Lumpur to say that he saw in Singapore recently a sign advertising a company called Unlimited Enterprises Limited.

Ross Davies

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CHEMICAL MANUFACTURERS AND TIMBER PRESERVERS

Extracts from the Report and Accounts for 1980

Year ended 30th September	1980	1979
Turnover	£93,296	£85,527
Exports sales of the U.K. companies	28,600	30,200
Group profit before tax	8,475	8,064
Earnings for ordinary shareholders	3,242	7,821
Total ordinary dividend	1,450	1,450
Earnings—pence per share	17	39
Investment in new capital expenditure	4,236	6,542

* Profits from chemical operations significantly reduced with trading in the six months to 30th September, 1980 particularly difficult.

* Main adverse factors affecting the chemical side were higher energy and raw material costs than those of international competitors, high interest rates and especially the effect of the strong pound on export margins.

* Profits from timber preservation activities improved in the year with the overseas subsidiaries providing satisfactory results.

* Capital expenditure concentrated on completion of existing projects and expenditure directed towards improved efficiency.

* Future prospects should see some improvement in timber preservation and building materials, but conditions affecting the chemical side are expected to remain difficult in 1980/81.

* Recommended final dividend 5p per share for 1980/81 making total 7.5p for the year—the same as last year.

CASTLEFORD • WEST YORKSHIRE

هكذا من الأصل

Wall Street

[illegible]

ACCOUNT DAYS : Dealings Began, Jan 12. Dealings End, Jan 23. 5 Contango Day, Jan 25. Settlement Day, Feb 2

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NEW YEAR NEW HOME

A chink of light in the housing gloom

The war years apart, 1980 was the worst in more than 50 years for new housebuilding. With unemployment among construction workers reaching record levels private housing completions slumped to 120,000 and starts on the ground to 96,000. And as the gloomiest year in memory went on, the housebuilding recession grew steadily worse.

According to Department of the Environment statistics, total housing starts in the three months September-November were 7 per cent lower than in the previous quarter, and 41 per cent down on a year earlier while completions were down 7 and 10 per cent respectively—and as the weeds grew on vacant building plots Mr Neil McIntosh, director of Shelter, was moved to say earlier this month: "In the months ahead, the statistics will assume the form of a blank piece of paper."

It takes a brave man to predict a recovery in the coming year but in his annual review Mr Andrew Tait, Director General of the National House Building Council—the consumer watchdog body—detects a chink of light in the gloom.

He gave three reasons why 1981 should be a better year: house prices have risen at a much slower rate of 6 per cent while average earnings have increased at over 20 per cent in the past year; the average deposit which first time buyers must pay has fallen; interest rates are on the way down.

In his review he added: "The housing market is a pyramid. These changes will enable more first time buyers at the foot of the pyramid to afford to buy. For new housing the picture is further improved by the fact that many builders have switched production to starter units to cater for the half of households which now comprise one or two persons."

In an interview with *The Times*, Mr Tait said: "My optimism might imply that I think things will be marvellous, whereas I think they will be less worse. But I also think

that part of the depression is caused by the fact that everyone preaches gloom and doom. We have to have a balanced view of things. We shall start more houses this year than last though still far fewer than we shall see in 1982 unless there is some new catastrophe."

With the high interest rates, average monthly mortgage repayments were too high in relation to earnings to stimulate the market and encourage builders to put up speculative developments. It was this factor, together with too fast a rise in house prices a year ago, which led to the disaster of the past 12 months.

"Now prices have stabilised over the past nine months", said Mr Tait, "and interest rates have come down one point. That is not enough to make a decisive difference but it does make some difference and, as rates come down, so the position will improve."

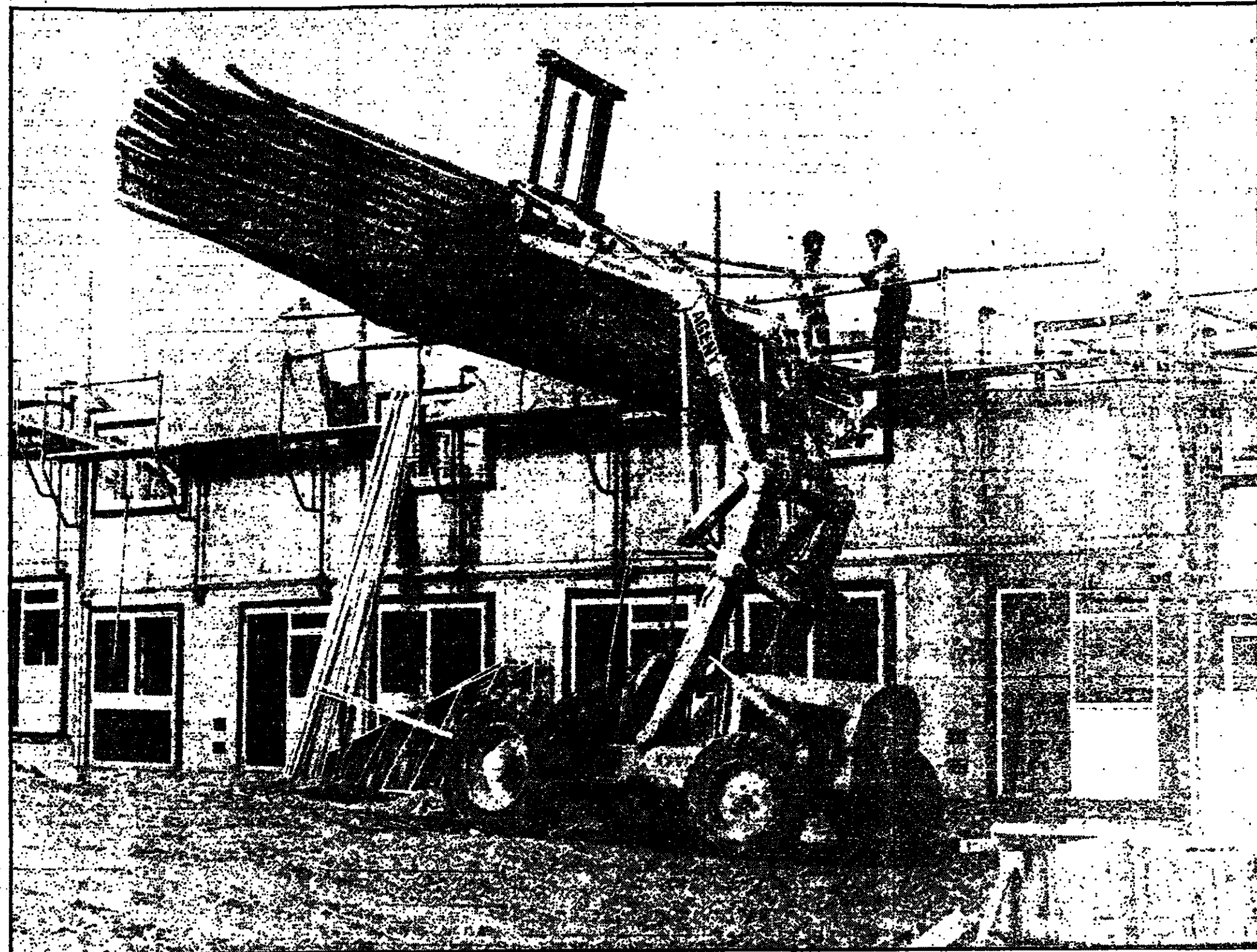
The problem is the vendor in the second-hand market who still has an inflated idea of the value of his house. We have had people writing to us about houses which were badly built and we knew that on the same estate other people were trying to sell for £80,000 houses which cost them £11,000 10 years ago. Sellers have had to go through a period of psychological adjustment and the process is still going on."

Speculative builders will only return when builders detect confidence in the market and Mr Tait believes this will only be achieved by a 2 per cent drop in interest rates.

Mr Tait added: "I would be a clever chap if I knew precisely when there might be an improvement but we might begin to see one in the spring and early summer."

Particularly depressing to the NHBCC has been the performance in Scotland, which does not have a tradition of home ownership and where there have been attempts to stimulate one. Only about 8,000 new homes were built in Scotland last year, representing 9 per cent of the 96,000 total of starts.

The south-east had 15 per



cent of the total, the south-west 19 per cent, the east 16 per cent, the west 14 per cent, the north-east 17 per cent, and the north-west 10 per cent. Of the 96,000 starts, 9,000 were by Wimpey Homes who claim to be the world's leading private home builders.

A spokesman there said: "We are optimistic. Early signs look encouraging. There is more flexibility in the

second-hand home market and that is the key to renewed buoyancy. A large number of people haven't been able to sell and that has held back sales. That is what has caused the congestion in the system. The first-time purchase element has been strong."

"We are going into 1981 with a large spread of sites and we have attractive energy-saving homes to offer. Last

year speculative development was diminished and we were only building to order."

"We are hoping to see speculative development again in late summer or early autumn." Not everyone is as optimistic about a quick recovery. Mr Jamie Stephenson, economic adviser to the House Builders' Federation, said: "I am an agnostic when it comes to predictions of a better year. I

am quite relaxed about the solvency of building companies but not optimistic about the number of starts this coming year. It will be perhaps about 110,000. But the year after you will see the number of starts jump to 130-135,000. It's the classic cycle. It will happen as the economy is reflation. To get things moving we need local authorities to plough more land into the market, to

release it under partnership deals with builders to develop for low cost ownership or half ownership. There has to be some enterprise."

The recession has led to enterprising schemes which builders have been forced to offer to prospective purchasers in a bid to keep the market moving.

Countryside Homes, for instance, are offering three

options—a mortgage subsidy, a house exchange, or a moving-in allowance—to induce purchasers to buy from them.

These are initiatives which will continue to be needed over the next few painful months before the market returns to something approaching normality.

Michael Horsnell

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IF my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their iniquity, and will heal their land. — 2 Chronicles 7: 14.

BIRTHS

BARTLEY—On 17th January 1981, at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, Dr. C. J. Bartley, and Mrs. J. Bartley, a daughter, Elizabeth Jane, born 10lb 10oz, 54in, Apgar 9, 10, 10. Mother, Mrs. J. Bartley, 10, Queen's Road, London, N.W.1. Father, Mr. J. Bartley, 10, Queen's Road, London, N.W.1.

CHAMBERLAIN—On 17th January 1981, at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, Dr. C. J. Chamberlain, and Mrs. J. Chamberlain, a daughter, Elizabeth Jane, born 10lb 10oz, 54in, Apgar 9, 10, 10. Mother, Mrs. J. Chamberlain, 10, Queen's Road, London, N.W.1. Father, Mr. J. Chamberlain, 10, Queen's Road, London, N.W.1.

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DEATHS

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HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS

LOW COST TRAVEL
Winter/Summer '81

For more information on the various low cost travel packages available, please contact the Low Cost Travel Department at the Ministry of Transport, 10, Whitehall, London, W.1.

HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS

THE MOST AMAZING HOUSE ON FAXOS

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HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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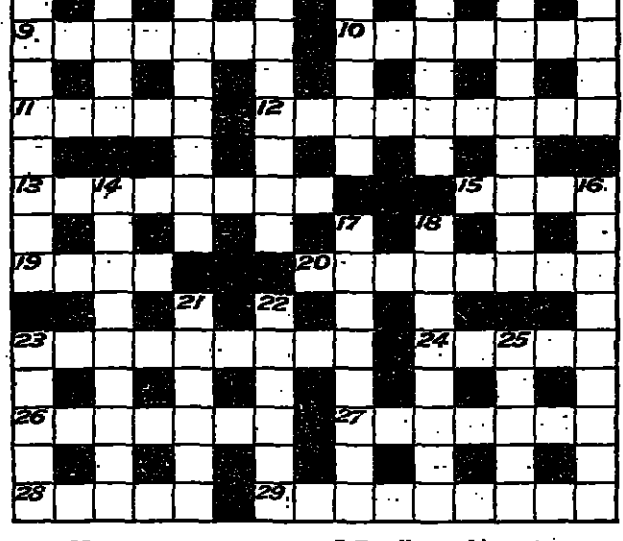
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THE TIMES Crossword Puzzle No 15,429



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2 Ray sounds attractive to fishermen (5).

3 Worrying an unknown number with financial commitment (7).

4 Bravery of retired WO fills papers (7).

5 One sort of pen or another — see (5).

6 Shunning aid on entering — both wrong (5).

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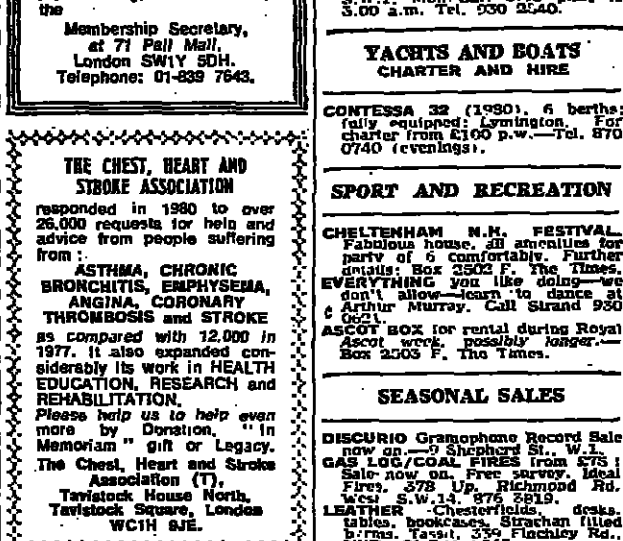
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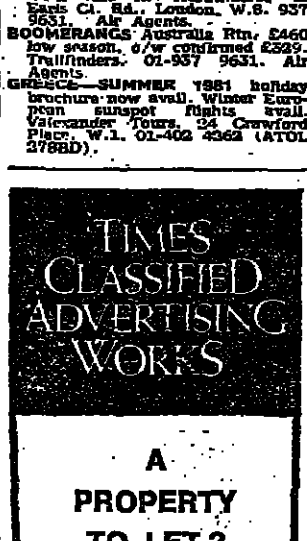
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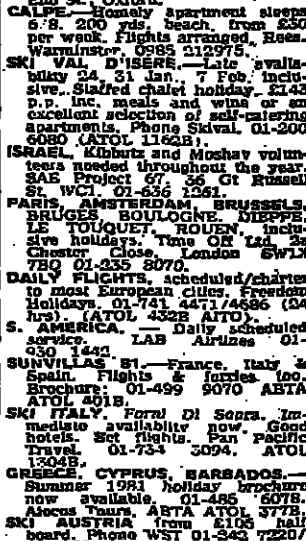
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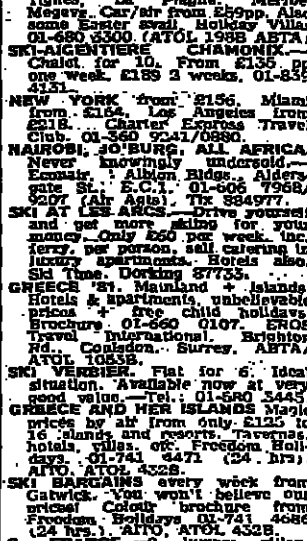
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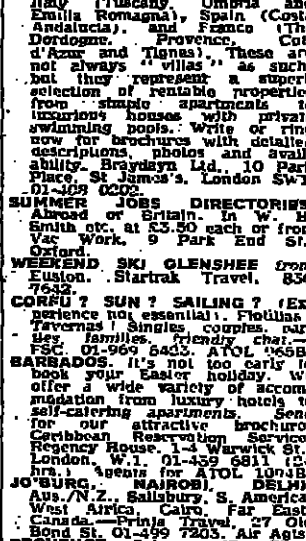
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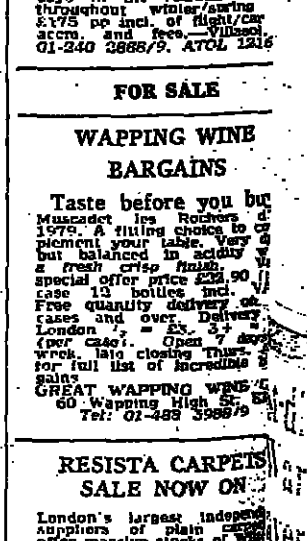
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